THE

Intriguing Coxcomb:

OR THE

SECRET HISTORY

OF

Sir *Edmund Godfrey*.

Illuſtrated with a Variety of Incidents which happened to himſelf, and the celebrated Miſs L***** C*****, in the Courſe of their ſeveral Years Acquaintance; the Whole calculated to amuſe and inſtruct the attentive Reader.

VOL. I.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE MOST

Finiſhed Fop Living.

Right Honourable ſir.

AS I will not, nay muſt not, imagine but ſo perfect a character as that with which the publick hath inveſted you, hath the appendage of nobility tacked to it; I have done my beſt endeavours to ſalute you by a title which may at once command the reſpect of the vulgar, and flatter that darling principle of ſelf-approbation which is the *Coup de Maitre*

of your character. To what elſe is it owing that you ſhine in all places of reſort and amuſement, the envy of the one ſex, and the admiration of the other; whence is it that you are become the model of dreſs, the arbiter of faſhions, the *Heydigger* of our amuſements.

But I forbear dwelling on theſe ſeveral excellencies which are ſo conſtantly in view, and paſs more immediately, and indeed more neceſſarily, to the occaſion of this dedication. It is not done with a view to flatter, for how is that poſ-

ſible

ſible, how can I, had I the tongue of men, or of angels, repreſent to you an idea of your own ſingular worth and excellency, which you have not already in the higheſt degree imaginable, but to deſire the patronage and protection of him, who will in return be ever your

Moſt Obſequious, &c.

THE

THE PREFACE.

IT is not the desire of being known to the world, much less the passion of being esteemed a man of wit, that occasions my writing these memoirs; it is so easy to attain these useless advantages now a days, that I have long since rejected them; any agreeable folly or pleasing trifle is sufficient to spread your name through court or city; I declare if I was ambitious of this happiness, I would endeavour to attain it by some more solid means, such as posterity should approve; I therefore do not write to acquire the name of author, my only reason for it is, I must be employed, I hate idleness. Without being known

to

to the busy World I have run through some pleasant, others very extraordinary, and some unfortunate adventures. I shall relate them just as they happened, do not expect me to bring proofs for what I advance, on the contrary I shall suppress sometimes not only their names, but places where the scene was acted, to the end that false shame or vanity may not oblige me to disguise facts. You may believe me upon my credit, and indeed it is the best way for a reader to do so upon all occasions, I mean in the perusal of writings of this kind.

I wish with all my heart such as read these memoirs may reap more ample benefits by them, than the greatest part of those do, to whom authors hint in their prefaces that the perusal of their books is a preservative from their follies or the vices of the age, confidently affirming that they have pointed out the surest path for a man

to enter the world with credit, for my part, who ſpeak what I think, and judge by experience, ingenuouſly confeſs I never was prevented from committing a fault by the precepts of any moral treatiſe whatſoever; youth hurries us on, and is too giddy to retain ſuch inſtructions oppoſite to its diſpoſiposition and pleaſures. You will not find in the end of this book a man repenting the follies of his life, ſeeking on a long premeditated deſign to expiate his paſt diſorders by a retreat from the world. Either I am as yet too young to think ſo ſeriouſly, or perhaps I have not deſerved of heaven this grace, for I find myſelf now as incorrigible as ever; it is very true the repulſes I have ever met with in a great many adventures which heretofore I eagerly embarked in, has cooled the ardour with which I ſought them; but I can't ſay if any ſhould occur again that my back will be turned upon them; novelty in any ſhape delights

me,

me, and I ſhall ever give it a favourable reception; I hope in the mean time you will not condemn me for this pure nature, and in ſhort I wiſh you may find as much pleaſure in reading me, as I felt in the different ſcenes I have gone through.

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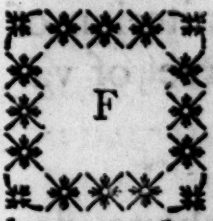
THE

THE SECRET HISTORY OF Sir *Edmund Godfrey.*

CHAP. I.

An introductory moral. The outlines of a coxcomb ſketched. Events neceſſary to do what indeed is ſeldom accompliſhed. The making the reader underſtand the ſubject of his attention.



OPPERY and philoſophy, however different they may ſeem to the imaginations of thoſe who have always conſidered them in the light of two extremes, abſolutely irreconciliable to each other

yet upon mature reflection, the real difference will not be found ſo great as at firſt it appeared. Neither the coxcomb nor the philoſopher are born with the characters which they are afterwards pleaſed to mould themſelves into; each of them muſt in order to aſſume their ſeveral characters, firſt throw off the prejudices which were implanted in them by nature, or ſown by education, and it oftentimes happens that they offer great violence to themſelves, to their own notions and opinions, both of men and things, before they arrive at that height of impudence, which renders them rather the objects of pity than contempt, and is the never failing criterion of the moſt conſummate degree of vanity.

I HAVE ſome ſort of right to deliver my ſentiments thus freely of theſe two kinds of men, having been

been early initiated into the myſteries of both; and having ſhewn myſelf as fluttering a coxcomb as it is poſſible for man to be, and as ſtaunch a philoſopher as many ſeemingly ſerious men, who have ever been accounted ſuch in the eyes of the world. I cannot at this diſtance of time, in which things put on a far different aſpect from what they did when I beheld them thro' the mediums of intereſt and ſelf-complacency; I ſay, I cannot help pathetically lamenting the folly of both ſets; of the two, however, the fopling has by far the largeſt ſhare of my compaſſion. As continual mortifications never fail to preſent themſelves to him, there is ſcarce a moment in the day but what ſhews him in his proper colours, even to himſelf; whereas the philoſopher hath a kind of ſullenneſs in his temper, which renders him unfit for the enjoyment of, and

indiſpoſed to reliſh the ſweets of ſociety, and conſequently exempts him from thoſe perpetual diſappointments, to which in the courſe of things he would otherwiſe be unavoidably expoſed.

The little knowledge he has of women, the few pleaſures he allows himſelf, and the ſmall ſhare of ſatisfaction he feels in thoſe that are thus allowed, cut off in a great degree all the opportunities of remorſe, or at leaſt prevent their being attended with any diſagreeable conſequences. But the coxcomb is very far from being poſſeſſed of any ſuch advantages; being the continual dupe of his own ſelf love, he is always obliged to ſacrifice even his moſt darling paſſions, and give up every proſpect which might otherwiſe have yielded him a great deal of ſatisfaction, if he were willing to deſerve, or be at all the better for it.

it. The philoſopher is continually railing at women, and conſequently avoids them as he would do his bittereſt enemy, depriving himſelf by this means of every poſſible benefit which might indiſputably accrue to a man of ſenſe and reflection; his misfortune however is not very conſiderable, becauſe he himſelf is wholly unapprized of the advantages he loſes, and the women think it beneath them, either to undeceive or to puniſh him.

But the coxcomb, who wants only a little moderation, to become a very amiable character, cannot come off ſo cheaply, either with himſelf or the women; the nearer he is to the becoming agreeable, the more highly are they offended at him, and the more deeply he is chagrined at his diſappointment. The numberleſs railleries both public and private that he muſt tamely undergo, the

advantages he might gain over his rivals, whoſe happineſs he foreſees will be the effect of his miſtreſs's diſpleaſure againſt him; the ſeveral opportunities which he has ſuffered to ſlip by him unimproved, and which he ſees have been made uſe of by perſons every way his inferiors, in ſhort every thing, even thoſe very pleaſures in which he ſometimes indulges, but which he more frequently treats as the deſerved objects of his contempt, all theſe together contribute at length to the convincing him of the miſtake in which he has hitherto lived, and in the puniſhing him for it very amply.

I WILL not endeavour to carry this parallel any farther; inaſmuch as that part of my readers who haply may take up my book by way of amuſement, and indeed I would recommend it to the fop as an admirable ſuccedaneum, in the ſtead of his favourite

favourite looking glaſs, may think me tedious if I purſue the thought any farther, ſince the gentlemen of this claſs are not very capable of carrying a long chain of reaſonings in their heads. Thus much however I thought neceſſary by way of juſtification of my aſſertion, but ſhould the force of theſe arguments be denied, as perhaps they may, my own experience would be ſufficient to ſilence ſuch objections, and ſurely no one will contradict or endeavour to call into queſtion the validity of this evidence.

LET the whole then of what has been ſaid, be reduced to theſe two ſimple propoſitions; it is a great misfortune to be a coxcomb, but it is ſtill a greater to affect the buffooneries of a fop, and at the ſame time at the bottom to be greatly ſuperior to ſo trifling a character. The following ſheets will be an undeniable

proof of the truth of my aſſertion. I ſhall be ſufficiently recompenſed for my pains, if my brother fops, for whoſe inſtruction I write principally, are entertained, and yet I cannot ſay that I ſhall be thoroughly ſatisfied unleſs they conſider it in the light of ſomething more than an amuſement.

My deſign is to give the public an ingenuous teſtimony of my remorſe, in a full and open confeſſion of my ſeveral miſcarriages. As to the female part of my readers, I would fain have them diſcover in the following account, the many ſuperior advantages which they undoubtedly have over us, and take notice of this indiſpenſable rule which ſhould ever guide their conduct. In ſhort I would fain have them ſenſible of, and gratefully acknowledge, the obligations they owe me.

My education well befitted my ſtation in life. Thoſe who were entruſted with the care of me, ſeemed very deſirous of inſtructing me in matters of which they were wholly ignorant, and in which it cannot be wonderful that I remained quite unknowing. Being wholly freed from reſtraint when I was twenty years of age, by the death of my father, I immediately left off every thing that had the leaſt appearance of improvement, and turned myſelf looſe into that wilderneſs called the world. I did not want for ſenſe, yet I had in reality much leſs than I imagined myſelf poſſeſſed of. My perſon very handſome, my diſpoſition lively and good humoured; in ſhort I was both rich and generous; theſe qualifications are the uſual requiſites of a young man of faſhion, and when they are heightened and ſet off by a compe-

tent degree of aſſurance and ſelf ſufficiency, there need not be any doubts of meeting with ſucceſs.

I HAD ſeen ſome very agreeable women frequently in company at my father's, nor were my eyes the only parts that were affected with the view; I had always felt a ſtrange unuſual impreſſion of delight, which I was continually longing to impart, but which the ignorance and baſhfulneſs, the natural conſequences of my extreme youth, had hitherto prevented me from doing; their ſprightly ſallies diverted me exceſſively, and I enjoyed them over again in recollection, long after the beloved objects themſelves were abſent from my view. I was frequently tempted to offer them ſome proof of my gratitude, but the awe I was continually under prevented me from doing it. One of thoſe divine creatures called chambermaids had the good fortune however

ever at length to relieve me from my inexperience; I know not how it came to paſs, but thoſe ſort of gentlewomen are generally the firſt Dulcineas of the young Quixotes of theſe times. It ſhould ſeem as if nature were willing to give them ſome recompence for the inconveniencies to which their ſituations but too frequently expoſe them, which is conſtantly inferior to their pretenſions, and almoſt as diametrically oppoſite to the bent of their inclinations.

If the paying the firſt addreſſes to any woman is a point of ſo much conſequence as it is generally eſteemed among women, I know ſeveral ladies of my acquaintance who would very willingly exchange conditions with their chambermaids in this particular; for that kind of gentry manage matters ſo well between the ſeveral male relations in a family, that they for the moſt part, wholly engroſs to themſelves

themſelves the firſt honours of the whole family.

FANNY, for that was the girl's name who had at once engaged my attention and my perſon, did not indeed let me into a train of fine gallantry, which can only be attained by a long experience in and intimate acquaintance with the modes of high life, but ſhe gave me a reliſh for it, and this taſte when improved by reflection, will ſoon introduce an eagerneſs for and readineſs of practice.

IN the infancy as it were of my initiation into the myſteries of love, I became, what I may fairly call, a little dæmon of deſire; I viſibly grew paler and thinner, but that did not give me any uneaſineſs in the leaſt; I was then wholly ignorant of the conſequence it was of, to have a good florid complexion: on the other hand, Fanny was the only object of my de-

light

light, and the little wench had ſo great a mixture of generoſity in her character, that the thinner I grew, the more cloſely ſhe ſeemed attached to me.

When we come ſeriouſly to reflect, if ever we do, upon the proceedings of man, we ſhall find him an almoſt incomprehenſible animal, delighting in contradictions, and actuated by whim or caprice in every inſtance. Thus for example when a woman gives herſelf up wholly to your complacency, we would have her at the ſame time affect a decency, and imitate the exceſſive tranſport of our paſſion; two things, to ſay no more, abſolutely irreconcileable to each other: we would have her likewiſe excite our deſires, by a ſhew at leaſt of delight, that is in thoſe tender moments, when all our pleaſure centres in our ſenſes, and the force of reaſon is either wholly abſorbed, or its edge

edge conſiderably blunted; in theſe tender moments, I ſay, we would have a woman keep up the appearance of her virtue, and inſpire us at the ſame time with the higheſt degree of ſatisfaction, taking no part of this pleaſure to herſelf, but only what is juſt ſufficient to inflame us the more. Surely the diſtreſſes of women in ſuch a ſituation, and under ſuch great diſadvantages, is very lamentable indeed.

GENTLE reader, the aforeſaid reflection, on which thou mayeſt chew thy cud ſo long as it may ſeem good and pleaſant to thee, is not inſerted either to tire thy patience or to fill up the book, but the following account will amply illuſtrate the juſtneſs of the obſervation, Fanny did indeed deſerve my utmoſt attention. Poor girl ſhe felt the utmoſt tenderneſs for me; ſhe was very handſome, and bore me the ſame

complacency

complacency that every one elſe would have felt for her in my ſituation, and yet the moſt black ingratitude was at length the reward of the ſeveral misfortunes to which her affection had expoſed her. It was not all of a ſudden that I perceived an alteration in myſelf towards her; my frame of mind was ſuch that I was not deſigned by nature to be cruel or unjuſt, without feeling myſelf the bitter effects of ſuch behaviour; as the indifference which was coming upon me can be called no other than a piece of injuſtice, its advances were gradual, and by that means prevented me from beholding the enormity of the action that I was going to be guilty of; I call it a guilty action becauſe, however in the faſhionable ſtrain of the times, ruin and diſhoneſty may ſound like the effects of ſpirit and gallantry, yet in the opinion of the ſober minded part of the world, ſuch a character will ever,

ever, and indeed it does deſerve no leſs, be treated with contempt.

As ſoon as ever I perceived this change within myſelf, I could not help feeling a great deal of confuſion. Fanny's preſence became now more unwelcome than uſual, and I for ſeveral days as ſtudiouſly avoided, as I had before earneſtly courted her. The poor girl was too deeply concerned at the loſs ſhe was ſuſtaining, not to endeavour to bring me back again to my former degree of tenderneſs; I was ſo cruel as to blame her for what was indeed no more than the natural conſequences of her paſſion, which I had formerly given her perpetual opportunities, evincing, whenever I proteſted, as I frequently had done, that the greateſt part of my happineſs conſiſted in her. This cruelty however was the natural attendant and conſequence as it were of my

my inconſtancy; to a man in love, let the ſituation of the beloved object be what it will, every attention that is paid him, every freſh mark of tenderneſs is a compliment to his vanity, and as ſuch need not doubt of a favourable reception, but when the perſon ceaſes to be conſidered in the ſame amiable light, things do then take a very different turn; the leaſt fondneſs imaginable appears in the light of fulſome flattery, and ſeems inſtead of a pleaſure a moſt intolerable load, and this not ſo much, becauſe the perſon to whom they are addreſſed feels an unwillingneſs to make any return, as on account of the reproach he feels within himſelf at not being delighted with them in the ſame degree that he was formerly. When the heart is in this ſituation, vanity ſucceeds, or rather intrudes itſelf, into the place of love, and ingratitude ſupplies the defect of generoſity.

I was however at length quite tired out with Fanny's perſiſting in her diſagreeable fondneſs; I determined therefore to rid myſelf of this inconvenience, and for this purpoſe ſent her a letter, the contents of which were as follows:

"You ſhould have ſpared yourſelf the uneaſineſs which you have now in ſome meaſure obliged me to give you, for I cannot accuſe myſelf of cruelty at the bottom, nor can I bring my behaviour to this point of indifference without a great deal of concern. I thought you would long ere this have perceived the neceſſity there is of our parting; my conduct of late ſhould have convinced you that I had quite put off the lover, and had reſumed the maſter. Either love or vanity made you conſider the connexion between us in too favourable a light, and yet I cannot

cannot help wondring that your own experience did not ſuggeſt to you that this connexion could not laſt for ever; if you are really in love with me Fanny, I pity you ſincerely, but yet notwithſtanding, my own reputation bids me aſſure you, that unleſs you can condeſcend to reſume your former ſituation, it will become abſolutely neceſſary for you to quit our family".

THIS was a nice deciſion indeed, and yet I congratulated myſelf on the part I had acted; the uſual effect of the heart's being hardened by vanity, and every other impreſſion that can poſſibly be made on it. Men of faſhion imagine they are conferring favours on a girl, while in reality they are abuſing her moſt cruelly, and are aſhamed to think they ever entertained any regard for thoſe poor creatures, when the gratification of their ſenſes is paſt and forgotten;

forgotten; they ſoon come to deſpiſe them, and think that the uſing them ill is a kind of reparation that is due to themſelves for the weakneſs they have been guilty of. But this point of honour is merely imaginary, not unlike that of lord W———, or Sir Thomas R———, at White's or Arthur's, who would ſcorn, they ſay, to pick your pocket, but who make not the leaſt ſcruple to pack the cards every night of their lives. True honour conſiſts in eſtimating every thing according to its real value. Every nobleman or other, who is aſhamed of his connexions with any woman, merely on account of her ſituation in life, is a coxcomb. As this poſition may ſeem a little arbitrary to the generality of our readers, we will leave him to digeſt it with what appetite he may, and conclude the preſent chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

An amour; the uſual conſequences, eagerneſs at the onſet; tranſport on the ſucceſs, and ſatiety of enjoyment. Two new characters. A phænomenon called an angel.

FANNY, though a chamber-maid, had had a tolerable education, and the anſwer ſhe gave me will ſoon inform the reader whether ſhe had been the worſe for it or the better, her letter was as follows:

" I am determined ſir, to comply with your cruel injunctions, I will aſk immediately for my diſmiſſion, and you ſhall be freed from the trouble of ſeeing one whoſe preſence indeed ſhould be a continual mortification to your vanity, to which I am very ſenſible I am made the ſacrifice. You are willing I ſhould reſpect

reſpect you, and pray what is love but the profoundeſt reſpect that can be paid; you would in reality have me forget that ever I loved; alas, in you were centred all my hopes, fears, and deſires. How unexpected then muſt ſuch a requeſt be? how ſhocking when made? I will not endeavour to recall the indefatigable pains I was continually taking to pleaſe and delight you. The contempt with which you are pleaſed to treat thoſe endeavours, cuts off all occaſion of reproach; you have been pleaſed to aſſert that all thoſe pleaſures which you felt were merely the creatures of your imagination, and had not the leaſt reality in them; the caſe is far from being the ſame with reſpect to my ſentiments for you; they were the effect of your ſeeming good qualities, your continual proteſtations were a ſufficient pledge, as I thought, of your ſincerity, but I have fallen the dupe of too great

a degree of delicacy and regard for you. Farewell, ſir, you will one day or other heartily regret your having known ſo little of my real character, and your darling eſteem for yourſelf will become one of your ſevereſt tormenters. Pride has ſeduced and deceived you, and it is in the ſole power of a ſeries of misfortunes to awaken you to a ſenſe of things you will fall in love with. Women whom you will imagine have a tenderneſs for you, but in reality will only laugh, while you will pine and languiſh. I call heaven to witneſs I wiſh you no ſuch calamities, the vengeance would be too great, and I cannot think you would deſerve ſo heavy a train of ills".

THE reading of this letter gave me a thorough conviction of the ſevere remorſe, which is the never failing attendant of a faulty behaviour. There aroſe in my mind a deep

deep ſort of concern, which laſted near two days, and which intereſted me more deeply in the caſe of poor Fanny, indeed I believe a very little matter would ſoon have recalled me to my former ſtate of tenderneſs. This uneaſineſs however went off, Fanny deſired to be diſmiſſed: as I did not doubt her unwillingneſs to receive any thing more from me, I imparted my deſign to my mother, and ſhe accordingly received from her a fifty pound bill, in recompence for her ſervices: the poor girl retired immediately into the country, where giving herſelf up entirely to chagrin, ſhe died of a conſumption, within ſix months after ſhe left us.

I BEGAN to mix with the faſhionable kind of people as ſoon as I began to diſtaſte my Dulcinea, and the event of her departure rather

ther haſtened than retarded me in the progreſs I had begun.

To a young man juſt entering into life, every thing puts on the appearance of enchantment; that kind of mutual complacency eſtabliſhed between the two ſexes, the brilliancy of equipage, the airs of coquettry, and in ſhort, that continual variety, which is perpetually diſcoverable, deceive the underſtanding, and miſlead the judgment of a young man, and form within a perpetual fund of ſurprize and aſtoniſhment, not unlike that which the appearance of Punch or Harlequin's jumping down his own throat, produces in the countenance and geſtures of the gentlemen who adorn our firſt and ſecond galleries at either of the theatres.

And yet on the other hand, how inſipid are the particulars of the con-

verſation of thoſe who are generally termed well bred. Who is there of the leaſt rank or fortune who has had the happineſs to eſcape the repeated martyrdom of thoſe mixed conventions in which town ſcandal, characters of players, compariſons of dancers, criticiſms upon operas without the leaſt taſte for muſic, the mercileſs ſatires of dunces upon dunces, the hack words of the day any how brought in, form the whole frivolous fund of the chit-chat of thoſe who are far from ſuſpecting themſelves of being low company, on the ſtrength of paſſing vulgarly for the higheſt. Where experience begins there error ends. A young man of any ſenſe, ſoon comes to perceive that what he has hitherto been continually amazed at, is no other than the effect of the unaccountable whims of man. The imagination is no longer amuſed, and

then

then I need not tell my readers that the charm is broke of courſe.

My natural temper had a great mixture of tenderneſs in it, and impreſſions were ſo eaſily made, that almoſt every woman I met with affected me in ſome meaſure. I ſoon diſcovered however, that in the companies which I uſed to frequent, love was a kind of parading patrole, that emotions of that kind were ſeldom if ever felt, and whenever they ſtole on inſenſibly, were ſure to be ridiculed. As to myſelf, I only waited for a woman that appeared truly amiable, to propoſe myſelf to her, and ſuch was my misfortune that an opportunity was not long wanting. There was a young lady whom I ſhall diſtinguiſh by the name of Sophia, though perhaps the greater part of my readers would be better pleaſed to ſee Miſs —— or Miſs ——, living in ſuch or ſuch a place,

but this curioſity, as it would anſwer no good end to gratify it, I muſt be excuſed from indulging. What I had already obſerved of the fair ſex in general, and of Sophia in particular, convinced me upon the whole, that a ſerious declaration would be rejected; while one of a more pleaſant kind, and which had rather the appearance of raillery than ſettled deſign, might probably ſucceed.

I AM going to ſurprize you, ſaid I to her, one day, nay, I am going to give you an opportunity of being merry at my expence; the truth is, I am in love with you, and what is ſtill more ſurprizing, I muſt inſiſt on a return of your affection. If you are determined to puniſh me, let this be the only reaſon, that I have delayed declaring myſelf ſo long; nay, go one ſtep farther, and put into practice a generous way of acting, which is ſo frequently talked

of,

of, but ſo ſeldom evinced; make large returns of kindneſs for ſmall profeſſions of it, conſider you run no hazard; your affection you may depend upon it ſhall remain an entire ſecret, and you ſhall be the only perſon that ſhall be conſcious of this eſteem, unleſs you ſhall be pleaſed to make it publick yourſelf; and this, though not done in words, is often brought about by the behaviour, which, though more ſilent, is not leſs forcible than the ſtrongeſt declaration. Although this confeſſion, and its manner of delivery was in a ſtrain entirely new, yet Sophia did not ſeem ſurprized in the leaſt.

Did I conſider ſeriouſly what you have been ſaying, replied ſhe, the only opinion I could form of it would be that you have been telling a parcel of ſtories with a wonderful aſſurance, and the only puniſhment I could inflict would be by puniſh-

ing you in the ſame way; but ſtill when I reflect on the openneſs and ingenuity which appeared viſible throughout the whole, I conſider what you ſay as a truth of ſome conſequence, and I own freely to you, that I am very much pleaſed in perſuading myſelf that it is ſo. You have taken up indeed a very falſe notion of our ſex in general, but that I eaſily forgive you, as I ſee it is on my account. I am very well acquainted with the methods of thinking of moſt women, many of them being within the ſphere of my acquaintance, and others take ſo little pains to diſguiſe their thoughts, that you may eaſily ſee through them without much penetration.

In this jumble as it were, of order and different inclinations, when I firſt ſat out in life, I thought myſelf obliged to countenance the follies of the reſt of my acquaintance,

by

by engaging equally deep, or at leaſt by affecting to be ſo. It was at one of theſe periods of time, that you happened to ſee me firſt, and you immediately concluded that was the effect of deliberate choice, which was only in reality the reſult of my complacency. See then how unjuſt, how unfavourable an opinion you muſt have formed of me. Alas! had I known— Here ſhe broke off, which ſome of my readers may imagine to be more in the character of an Artemira to her Oroondates, than a young lady of Hanover-Square, to her favourite lover; I call myſelf her favourite lover, becauſe ſhe had long ſighed for me in ſecret, as ſhe pretended, ſo that this was only a formal declaration of what had been long brooding within; and in this inſtance it reſembles natural fire, that the cloſer it has been confined, the more violent are its effects when vent is once given it.

No wonder then that Sophia, when ſhe had already gone ſo far, ſhould in a ſhort ſpace of time make farther advances. To cut ſhort the proceeding, after the uſual formalities, which however ſhe would if poſſible have eaſily diſpenſed with, ſhe ſurrendered at diſcretion, and her extraordinary favours ſoon advanced me from the ſtate of a begging to that of a thankful lover. I imagined myſelf at that time poſſeſſed of the completeſt happineſs on earth, but alas, I was very ſoon undeceived.

Sophia ſoon altered her behaviour towards me, and this convinced me more than ever of the extreme regard I had for her. The great grief of mind which this alteration produced in me, ſeemed to preſage my approaching diſſolution, and ſo low were my ſpirits, that I beheld, or at leaſt ſeemed to behold my

fate

fate with ſome degree of pleaſure, romantically wiſhing that a ſigh of love might be my laſt. I flattered myſelf that poſſibly ſhe might be affected with the moving ſight of my diſtreſs; ſo little did I know that the tranſition between love and hatred is inexpreſſibly quick, and that averſion is a bourn from whence there are never any returns.

SOPHIA did at firſt ſeem to be moved with my condition, but as there is no reſtraint ſo ſore as that of continual diſſimulation, ſhe did not confine herſelf long, and I had ſoon an opportunity of being convinced that all the violent affection which ſhe pretended to have ſtifled ſo long in my favour, was no other than a freſh impoſition, which ſhe had determined to put on me. When I became ſenſible of this, I breathed nothing but vengeance, and pleaſed my fancy with ſeveral imaginary

ſchemes which I wanted to execute. It burſt into a lampoon, in which the whole affair was ſo fully ſtated, that the thing got wind, and my heroine became the ſubject of ſeveral performances equally ridiculous and abuſive.

This ſo entirely diſconcerted her, that notwithſtanding I had miſcarried, yet her ſituation was the leaſt to be envied of the two; for to a man of my turn of thinking, the circumſtance that was moſt mortifying, was the being miſtaken in the influence I imagined I had over her; whereas now the world was let into her character, her numerous train of admirers, who had conſtantly been flattered with promiſes which ſhe never intended to perform, now entirely deſerted her; and certainly not without very good reaſons, ſince had they continued they had only

before

before them the melancholy proſpect of being jilted.

As to myſelf, I forſwore from that inſtant, all future commerce with women, but experience ſoon convinced me that I was only a novice in the buſineſs, and I have ſince diſcovered that in ſuch a ſchool as this, little or no knowledge is to be got. As my affair had made ſome noiſe in the world, ſome women had a mind to make a trial of the ſame art in which Sophia had led the way; others wanted to convince themſelves of what had been aſſerted. However as their deſigns were exactly the ſame, though the methods they made uſe of to accompliſh them were not a little different, they ſoon met each other. But to explain this more fully, for fear we ſhould be unintelligible, they made their ſeveral advances; but this was by no means a behaviour calculated

to

to ſucceed, nor was it long ere they diſcovered their miſtakes, by finding out that what they had hitherto conſidered as the way to draw me in, was an infallible ſecret to keep me at a diſtance; they concluded then very wiſely, that they muſt go ſome other way to work, but as they found it would be attended with a great deal of trouble, they choſe rather to forego the pleaſure than to purchaſe it at ſuch an expence.

I WAS not, however, at all eaſy within myſelf. There were ſome others, who depending chiefly on the force of their own charms, or a more ſtudied behaviour, endeavoured as it were, to thaw my indifference, yet notwithſtanding they were thorough miſtreſſes of their art, and had every qualification, I will not ſay in the ſtile of our daily papers, to make the marriage ſtate happy, but to practiſe upon me with ſucceſs,

yet

yet they would never have done it, if I had not co-operated with them in their endeavours.

INDEED I was heartily tired of acting ſo uſeleſs a part as I had done for ſome time. When a man has been in love, upon ſhaking off the paſſion, he cannot help at certain ſeaſons feeling very wide intervals, which can only be ſupplied by the return of the little deity. I determined within myſelf to hold out no longer, but as it was impoſſible to favour all their pretenſions, I reſolved to attach myſelf to her who ſhould affect me the moſt ſenſibly. It was ſome time before this point could be decided; I felt indeed that every one of my fair claimants gave me much ſatisfaction, but I did not find myſelf diſpoſed to love any one of them, and I verily believe the whole affair would have been managed without any interruptions by jealouſy,

louſy, which could not have failed of being a kind of miracle, had not a freſh object intervened, and bore away the prize from the ſeveral competitors. I accordingly ended the diſpute by a ſudden ſtroke, and declared myſelf at once the avowed admirer of the laſt comer, and in purſuance of this reſolution, I directed all my cares to get well into her favour. As to the reſt of her rivals, they ended their parts by a cataſtrophe which is common enough in affairs of this kind, namely, upon finding that it was impoſſible for them to work themſelves into my eſteem, they took the contrary ſide of the queſtion, and reſolved to hate me outright.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

A fopling diſſected. Women cenſured, ſcandalized, in order, as is uſual, to be more adored, and more duped by them for the future.

CHARLOTTE was the name of my new Dulcinea, ſhe was young and pretty, had an appearance of ſenſe, but it was only an appearance; ſhe was conſtantly at the very height of the faſhion, and every one was continually ſpeaking of her, even thoſe who never had the leaſt acquaintance with her. She was married to a fop who had long dangled after her, and whom ſhe owned ſhe only married to be convinced he was an ideot. Although it was not much above a year ſince ſhe had determined to execute this pleaſant kind of revenge, ſhe had ſucceeded ſo well in the deſign ſhe had upon him

him, that one would almoſt imagine ſhe had had the thing in view from her earlieſt infancy. I ſoon became upon the moſt intimate footing imaginable, and then at daggers drawn, and after that, in the ſame kind of way that one ſhould be with tempers of that ſort, when one has been highly in their favour. My firſt paſſion had exhauſted my whole ſtock of delicacy, and indeed I had determined to deſire Charlotte to excuſe me for the want of it, but luckily for me there was a happy mixture in her temper, to which I cannot give any name that would convey the idea, and therefore, gentle reader I chuſe to give thee none at all, that leaves a man atliberty to do juſt as he pleaſes, and entirely frees him from every kind of embarraſsment.

WITHOUT therefore troubling ourſelves with thoſe preliminary ceremonies which are only an hindrance

drance to buſineſs, and ſerve only to feed our vanity inſtead of adminiſtring any pleaſure, we ſoon came to an agreement, and for a fortnight at leaſt, ſhe remained ſo inviolably conſtant, that every one who heard of it could not help being amazed. She had diſmiſſed from her ſervice thoſe dangerous kind of men who can never behold a rival without a jealous eye, and had only kept to attend on her, either thoſe who are never jealous, or whoſe jealouſy at leaſt did not tend to give diſturbance. She had diſmiſſed the former from their immediate attendance, but ſtill kept them *in petto*, very wiſely foreſeeing the great dearth of admirers which ſhe ſhould one time or other experience, nor indeed was it long before ſhe recalled them, and reinſtated them again in all their former privileges, inſomuch that I ſoon became a ſupernumerary, and began

to

to be heartily wearied of my own inſignificance.

A MAN who is naturally of an amorous diſpoſition, and is withal deceived into the bargain, does not remain in this condition for any long ſpace of time, and indeed I had this conſiderable advantage over my fellow-ſufferers, that ſhe paid me the melancholy compliment of deceiving me without much artifice, and thereby diſcovered the contempt ſhe had of my underſtanding, which indeed I reſented leſs than I ſhould have done, had ſhe diſcovered the ſame averſion to my perſon. As ſoon as I was thoroughly acquainted with the truth of the caſe, I reſolved to make the beſt uſe I could of the diſcovery. Accordingly I made it my buſineſs to find her out immediately, and addreſſed her as follows. I ſhall not, ſaid I, reproach you, I am convinced that when once a woman is grown

grown to diſreſpect herſelf, ſhe will not entertain any regard for any one elſe. Hear what I have got to ſay without endeavouring to impoſe on me by any ſhew of falſe tenderneſs, which can never be of any real ſervice to your cauſe; the charm is ſoon broke, and of courſe your inconſtancy is betrayed. Your fondneſs for me is ceaſed, or, what I rather take to be the caſe, you never had any for me. Divided between ten people who never gave themſelves the trouble of diſputing about you, you was diſguſted at the continual ſameneſs of your method of living, and when you firſt took notice of me it was more through the itch of novelty; than any ſettled prepoſſeſſion in favour of my pretenſions.

Deceived by my own heart as well as by you, I was too much in love myſelf, and too deſirous to meet with

with an equal return to diſtruſt you in the leaſt. You gave me the uſual proteſtations, but I ſoon found I had not variety enough in me to pleaſe you for a fortnight. You had recourſe to your uſual artifices, and this continual diſguiſe ſoon awakened me from my airy dream. I perceived I was duped, but knowing at the ſame time that all complaints would be unavailable, I determined to conceal my diſcovery from you. I pretended in my turn to be inſenſible of your behaviour, and in conſequence affected to treat you with the utmoſt indifference; and all this was done with ſo much prudence and circumſpection, that you would never have found it out, if you had not been yourſelf a perfect miſtreſs of deceit.

The ill ſucceſs of my diſſimulation ſuggeſted to me a new thought, malice being as well as neceſſity, the mother

mother of invention. I pretended to be very aſſiduous in paying my reſpects to the marchioneſs of——— but I ſoon diſcovered that all this produced nothing material. The reſult was, that I became agreeable to a woman for whom I did not care a ſixpence, and loſt your affection, which I prized above every thing. Grown quite deſperate, at length, I am come now to hear the determination of my fate, for upon you entirely depends my future happineſs or miſery. Sir, replied Charlotte, I ſhall deal with you very fairly, and you ſee, by what I ſay, that I pique myſelf upon doing it. I know that you are unhappy; the picture you have been drawing is that of an unfortunate lover, and indeed, I am afraid you have too much reaſon to hate me for being the occaſion of your misfortunes; and yet, though the occaſion, I am innocently ſo, and am ſo far from having any excuſes to make,

make, that I will give you ſome advice.

My natural diſpoſition at my firſt ſetting out in life, was pretty much like yours; however, I ſhould have gone much greater lengths if I had not ſtopped in time. I was born, in a great meaſure, an abſolute ſlave to love, but my ſenſe, my pride, and the examples of others around me, all joined ſo heartily in the ſolliciting my freedom, that I was obliged, in a great degree, to contradict my own natural inclination. It was juſt at this point of time when I imagined I had obtained ſo great a victory over myſelf, that I became acquainted with you. You inſpired me afreſh with thoſe ſentiments of tenderneſs, which I flattered myſelf I had renounced. It was then I experienced that the firſt impreſſions that are made, are ſeldom, if ever, effaced. I fell deeply in love with you,

you, but, as it uſually happens, this was immediately attended by a regret for ſo doing. I reproached myſelf exceedingly for the eaſineſs of the conqueſt, and knowing that the breaking off with you without any previous notice, would affect you very ſenſibly, I determined to ſoften the blow, by aſſuming a conduct which, though it ſpoke not quite plain, could not ſuffer you to remain in doubt about the ſituation of my heart. You ſee then, that I have not deceived you in the leaſt, becauſe I have loved you in earneſt, and if any alteration has happened, I took all the neceſſary ſteps to apprize you of it betimes.

I MADE a reply to this, which, as it was chiefly calculated to enflame rather than perſuade, I purpoſely omit. Had my remonſtrances indeed been ever ſo pathetick, the dye was caſt. Sir, replied Charlotte, I pity

pity you ſincerely, but I neither can nor ought to be influenced by what you have been ſaying. I cannot help thinking that I owe ſome reſpect to myſelf, I live in an age where every thing that is done is as certainly known, and I ſhould be abſolutely ruined if I were ſuſpected in the leaſt of having liſtened to your propoſals; but you have a right to my beſt advice, and I will accordingly give it you.

You ſeem to be inliſted under the banner of a very unthankful maſter, who has enticed you by putting on a falſe appearance of pleaſure, and it is merely on this appearance that you have wholly relied, and in purſuance of this reliance given yourſelf up entirely. Believe me for once; the little knowledge I have of this matter is the ſole reſult of experience. I was once in the very ſame circumſtances that you are, and fondly imagined

gined that I was the happieſt creature alive, till at length awaking as from a dream, I found that my notions were ſo far from being commonly received or approved, that I was become the jeſt of the greater part of my acquaintance; that I was ſeeking pleaſure amidſt a multitude of cares and uneaſy diſquietudes. You will perhaps be amazed when I tell you that upon going into company, I there found the ſatisfaction which I had been ſo long endeavouring after. Try the experiment and you will then be thoroughly convinced of the truth of what I have been ſaying.

THE end of this ſerious, or if I may ſo ſpeak, rather ludicrous advice, was entirely of a piece with the beginning, and both were highly worthy of the perſon who delivered them. Although it very evidently appeared that my utmoſt

efforts to have awakened her former paſſion would have been ineffectual, I was willing to give myſelf one little ſatisfaction; I recollected as well as I could, the chief topics of her diſcourſe, and worked them up into a fable, which I preſented to her the next morning. In a day or two afterwards I waited on her again, to ſee whether time had not made her relent; I ſee ſir, ſaid ſhe to me, you do not want for ſenſe, you turn a fable very prettily, but you cannot ſurely have forgot the reſolution I have taken, which, give me leave to tell you, is abſolutely unalterable; this is all I have to ſay.

I WAS waiting for ſome time in a ſituation by no means to be envyed, and which were I accurately to define, I know not whether it was anxiety or ſurprize. As this was a ſtroke of her conduct for which I was not prepared

prepared in the leaſt, my reſolution was quite diſarmed, and I was juſt going to throw myſelf at Charlotte's feet, when a ſudden turn of thought prevented me from doing it. I felt a thorough contempt, and even an abhorrence of my miſtreſs. Had Charlotte been a man, I ſhould without any ſcruple have called her to account. Her eyes ſparkled indeed, but their brilliancy was owing to the inexhauſtible fund of malice within, her countenance was the trueſt picture of ſtrong irony that I had ever beheld. Go madam, ſaid I to her, with an air of great contempt, you are the moſt deſpicable creature that a man of honour can ſtand in fear of, happy is he who knows enough of you to ſecure himſelf from the effects of your malice; but what am I ſaying, are you really ſo terrible? no ſurely; any one but myſelf would have put it out of your pow- to do hurt. Charlotte upon this

burſt into a fit of laughing, upon which I immediately took my leave, for fear of ſoiling my character by a piece of revenge which ſhe in reality but too well deſerved. As a quickneſs of conſolation is not one of the leaſt enviable perquiſites of the coxcomb character, the ſum of my reflections preſently amounted to a radical cure, and I began to be leſs provoked than aſhamed at the ſmart of it. As nothing too is more natural than the ſkip of levity from extream to extream, I now felt the joy of my diſengagement with ſuch a ſincere pleaſure, that I conceived I might ſafely embark afreſh in new adventures, if not for the delight I might expect in the courſe of them, at leaſt for that I figured to myſelf in getting rid of them; ſuch are generally the plans of a coxcomb's reformation, ſuch his uſe of his experience!

In theſe laudable diſpoſitions I declared war within myſelf againſt the whole ſex, not that I was yet fool enough to put all women indifferently under one cover and ſuperſcription, or to lump concluſions againſt them from thoſe objects of my amuſement or contempt; but the truth is that I had contracted a very low opinion of the maſs of them; I had obſerved that moſt of them treated none with more ridicule and contempt than ſuch of our ſex as were in awe of, or really reſpected them; and that nothing was more ſure of commanding ſucceſs with them, then preciſely the not deſerving it; a humour of which however they have had the honour of ſetting the faſhion, both to church and ſtate.

Possest, as I eminently then was, of the ſort of merit neceſſary to mak all the fortune I wanted with theme

I was determined to profeſs gallantry at large, to cultivate no ſerious attachment, nor entertain any paſſion for that ſex, other than that of the bee, with the flower tribe, pillaging upon the wing the ſweets of one, and fluttering on to the next. In this courſe, however, whatever airs of ſuperiority I had inwardly preſumed myſelf capable of, my fondneſs for eaſe and certain remains of that undebauched natural candour, which is the character of youth, made me find one great inconvenience, in that it was ſo much eaſier to get a miſtreſs than to get rid of her. But then this diſcount was ballanced again by the ſervice the noiſe of an infidelity to a ſtale miſtreſs did me in getting a freſh one. Women, naturally enemies to women, and from that principle incapable of union enough to make a common cauſe againſt a common enemy, ſeem rather to treat the moſt notorious

rious perfidies as recommendations. Thus the ill uſage of one woman, beſides that it flatters the hatred of another, provokes her vanity to the dangerous tryal, whether the preſumed ſuperiority of her charms may not give her the honour of making a fool of one who has made fools of thouſands; a project however by which numbers have been cruelly drawn in, with this comfort to them indeed, that their example will give as little warning to, as they themſelves had taken it from others.

I SET out then full ſpeed, in the ſame career which I had ſeen purſued by a number of coxcombs, whom I heartily deſpiſed, and in which moſt certainly I never found thoſe rapturous joys, the hopes of which had ſeduced me into it. More paſſions too than one fell ſhort in their account, ſince I could not diſſemble to myſelf, that thoſe women,

whom I undertook, and over whom I prevailed, were either too weak to give my deſires the pleaſure of a proper reſiſtance, or too worthleſs to give my vanity leave to live upon the reputation of having ſubdued them. To particularize them farther, would after all be abuſing the priviledge of my character to trifle. I could ſcarce be more inſignificantly employed in writing the hiſtory of my own times, than in that of thoſe immemorables with whom I lumbered the liſt of my conqueſts, and who were conſequently far from being matter of triumph or record.

Men are only great grown children, as fond of new play things, and eſpecially as apt to be cured of their eagereſt fancies, as that age is of its liquoriſhneſs for ſweetmeats by a ſurfeit. Thus arrived at the topping my character, after having in the courſe of it obtained the honour

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of paſſing for the moſt ſplendid, happy, dangerous, coxcomb in town, I grew cloyed and ſick of my ſucceſſes. The frequency of indulging benumbed my ſenſations, and I was ſuddenly taken torpid in the midſt of my good fortunes. I began to diſreliſh as well the facility of the ſex, to whom I was ſo ungrateful as not to give it the leaſt credit for all that it ſpared me of the very little expence it put me to of time, modeſty, and ſincerity, as to deſpiſe myſelf for my own cheapneſs. For I had even deſcended, in the wantonneſs of a promiſcuous chace, to women, and thoſe not in the loweſt walks of life, whom I thought myſelf obliged to ſwear previouſly to ſecrecy, and that they would never divulge the honour I did them. I ſaw myſelf then with pain, in the wretched condition of thoſe pleaſure-ſated ſultans, who, in the midſt of their overſtocked ſeraglio's, overtaken with the languors

of ſatiety, and drudged even to loathing with all the paſſive obedience and non-reſiſtance around them, find at length how eſſential the heart is to the preparation of a feaſt worth the appetite of the ſenſes, and are obliged, for the intereſt of pleaſure itſelf, to renounce their prerogative, in order to receive it at the hands of love its only ſovereign diſpenſer.

PERSUADED, after a great deal of experience, that a tender diſpoſition or a heart eaſily ſuſceptible of love is not ſo much an impediment to happineſs, as it is a flaw in the character of the modern man of faſhion, and taking up my opinion of women in general, from that ſample of them which I had hitherto ſeen, and which indeed I had ſo much reaſon to deſpiſe, I determined, within myſelf, to truſt none of them for the future, but to live with all upon this one

footing, that nature had framed them to be ſubſervient to my inclinations.

This reſolution indeed produced a deal of impertinence in my diſcourſe, which I perſuaded myſelf was abſolutely neceſſary to the keeping up the character I was ſo fond of perſonating. Accordingly I was continually venting ſatyrical reflections upon the ſex in general. The women indeed uſed generally to laugh at my unparalelled aſſurance: ſome indeed I could perceive were greatly pleaſed, either with the manner of my addreſs, or, what I rather take to be the caſe, overcome by their own natural tenderneſs, would fain have had me been ſenſible of their prepoſſeſſions in my favour, pitying me, without doubt, moſt heartily, that my prejudices againſt them were ſo deeply rooted. But this partiality of theirs was ſo far from making me relent in the leaſt, that it tended rather

ther to encourage me the more; and yet, upon a diſpaſſionate review of my own conduct, I had great reaſon to be diſſatisfied. If I knew any thing of my own natural temper and diſpoſition, it was, its being framed ſolely for love. This paſſion is, indeed, generally the firſt we become acquainted with, and is conſequently that with which we part the moſt reluctantly. It is all over now, would I ſay ſometimes to myſelf, I ſhall never experience any more thoſe tender emotions which I once uſed to feel at the ſight of my Charlotte; I ſhall be for the future one of thoſe dull inſipid drones who are utterly unacquainted with the true value of any thing; who are ſtrangers to the real enjoyment of the world, and are employed in contemplating the things around them, like the beaſts that periſh, and pretty much in the ſame manner. Grown quite a ſlave to my appetites, my ſole

endeavour

endeavour will be to ſtir them up to ſhameful gratifications, and perhaps in the amuſing them oftentimes with a fantaſtical creature of my own imagination. Is this the boaſted privilege of man, and muſt each portion of his happineſs depend entirely upon, and be dealt out to him in parcels by the weaker ſpecies?

THESE and ſuch like were the reflections that occurred to me in the dawn, as it were of my diſſipation, and ſuch indeed are the reflections that muſt continually occur to thoſe who live in the manner I did, who place their whole happineſs in luſt, while they are vainly amuſing themſelves with a chimæra of love, and who after a tedious ſlavery, at length awake as from a dream, and wonder at having been ſo ſenſeleſs and inſipid. This obſervation, trite as it may ſeem to ſome, and uſeleſs to others of my readers, will, I hope

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be a proof of my viewing things in a different light from what I did when I was giving occaſion for the preſent memoirs.

CHAP. IV.

A town jilt fire new. A paſſion reſembling love, but in reality luſt. The myſteries of intrigue. A ſecond lady.

LADY Richbell, the firſt victim of my lordly reſolution, was alſo the firſt who experienced me as the tyrant of her ſex. She did not indeed deſerve a happier lot, and is conſequently leſs worthy of pity or regard. But however contemptible ſhe might be in herſelf, I did not become leſs ſo by the method of my behaviour. The faults and foibles, nay, even the vices of the perſons we injure, are never any excuſe for our unjuſt proceedings, more eſpecially

cially when thoſe vices have not included us in their pernicious conſequences. Lady Richbell was at once the moſt tender miſtreſs, and the moſt outrageous prude of the age in which ſhe lived. In public ſhe conducted herſelf with a moſt wonderful, and indeed, a moſt ridiculous reſerve; in private there was no liberty but what ſhe very freely indulged; naturally falſe, malicious, and revengeful, the only inconvenience ſhe ſuffered was the appearance of conſtraint; though equally deſtitute both of wit and beauty, ſhe had the artifice to ſet even theſe diſadvantages in a favourable light; being made the confidant of her female acquaintance whom ſhe lulled into ſecurity, ſhe eaſily wormed out of them the characters of their ſeveral admirers, and their being deſerted by them, was generally the leaſt part of the misfortunes which they reaped as the effect of their ill-placed

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confidence. Every body deſpiſed lady Richbell moſt heartily, and yet there was ſcarce any one of faſhion who did not viſit her. But the moſt extraordinary circumſtance was the great complacency the young people had for her. The numberleſs ſcrapes into which ſhe continually led the people of her acquaintance, ſeemed rather to ſtrengthen her influence, than to render her the odium of thoſe ſhe had betrayed. It ſeems I was reſerved for the happy taſk of ſetting her character in its proper point of view, and indeed I may ſay without any vanity, that had it not been for me, ſhe would ſtill have gone on in her uſual method of deceiving; ſhe would have indeed continued the contempt, but at the ſame time would have remained ſole miſtreſs of the very people who deſpiſed her.

LADY Richbell's character ſeemed every way ſo proper an anvil for my revenge, that I determined in myſelf to begin with her immediately. My firſt addreſſes were introduced with an air of the utmoſt impertinence, the conſequence of which was, that ſhe received them as might be expected, with the utmoſt haughtineſs and aſſumed dignity. This behaviour of hers, was to me an inſupportable mortification, it looked like a refuſal to ſurrender, which to a man of my turn of thinking at that time, was a moſt unpardonable affront. Accordingly I reſolved to puniſh her for it ſeverely. Had ſhe complied at the firſt onſet with the propoſals I offered, I ſhould probably have been ſatisfied with including her in my general contempt, but ſhe attempted to go beyond her abilities, ſhe would fain have humbled my

my pride, the conſequence of which was my determination to ruin her.

You want ſaid I to her one day in the height of my reſentment, to make uſe of me in order to impoſe upon the world with reſpect to the opinion it ought to have of you from your conduct; but if this is your deſign, give me leave to aſſure you that you are prodigiouſly miſtaken. I am the man in the world the leaſt capable of being impoſed on myſelf, and conſequently the leaſt capable of being uſed to impoſe upon others. I have been concerned heretofore with women who have attempted to put in practice thar ſtale artifice of yours to deceive others through my means, but a very ſhort acquaintance with them convinced me of their method of procedure. I am neither ſuch a bubble as to be whined, or ſuch a coward as to be bullied into complacency; you cannot

not then but ſee how uſeleſs an attempt it is in you to excite my reſpect; I have been thus free and ingenuous in what I have ſaid, on purpoſe to convince you that I think your behaviour is ſo deeply rooted in you by cuſtom, that no remonſtrances of this kind can have any effect upon you. Lady Richbell, confounded, though pleaſed in the main with what I had been ſaying to her, would fain have interrupted me in the midſt of my diſcourſe, but I had laid it down as a maxim never to let a woman reply till ſhe had heard my ſtory out; more eſpecially when the end propoſed is the getting the better of her.

Be pleaſed, madam, continued I, to have one minute's patience, I have got ſomething to ſay to you that is of the utmoſt importance, and am too much your friend to ſuffer you to loſe it. I obſerved to you before

fore, that I was of opinion that what I had ſaid could not poſſibly give you any uneaſineſs; I now preſume farther to aſſert that it ought to be acceptable and agreeable to you; but for fear you ſhould miſtake my meaning, I will explain myſelf farther.

PRAY what are thoſe things called love and virtue, which are indeed much talked of, and made the ſubject of almoſt every one's diſcourſe, but which are in effect only the creatures of their imaginations; indeed what would become of the world if they had not been prudently diſcarded; it would be an abſolute wilderneſs, no modes, no entertainments, no tete a tetes, no gallant entertainments, a moſt hideous vacuum would come up and preſent itſelf inſtead of the enchanting noiſe and buſtle of the preſent times, for if the exiſtence of love

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and virtue be allowed, inviolable conſtancy follows of courſe; and give me leave further to aſk you what is conſtancy? it is a ſecret ſlow working poiſon, which abates and takes off the edge of every refined pleaſure. When the imagination is thus exhauſted it can no longer add delight to the ſenſes, from whence the true taſte of pleaſure and delicacy, and thoſe enchanting tranſports ſpring, without which, human life would be no other than an inſufferable load; the conſequence of all this is eaſy and natural, namely, that if there were really in being ſuch things as love, virtue, and conſtancy, they would be the moſt formidable enemies we could deal with.

ALTHOUGH a woman of Lady Richbell's character could not help being, as it were, betrayed from within, by the amazing aſſurance and freedom

freedom of my propoſals, yet I ſaw plainly enough that ſhe would fain have contradicted me; I perceived that ſhe was endeavouring to raiſe ſome objections to what I had been ſaying, and yet I ſaw at the ſame time that ſhe could not raiſe any with which ſhe was ſatisfyed herſelf. Indeed her ſituation at this time was extremely critical; by the manner of addreſs I had made uſe of, ſhe could not poſſibly expect that I would flatter her in the leaſt. A poſitive anſwer was now become abſolutely requiſite; the leaſt artifice in the world would have expoſed her to the terrible effects of my reſentment; ſhe could not doubt in the leaſt but that I was let into the ſecret of her life and behaviour. My extraordinary freedom was a convincing proof of this; conſequently ſhe could not help coming to a formal declaration, that we were both of the ſame opinion, and the making this

declaration,

declaration, was in effect the giving me an indiſputable controul over her perſon for the future; whereas if ſhe attempted to evade, or make any excuſes, it was an infallible method to expoſe herſelf the more to all the railleries which my wit or malice could ſuggeſt, and would have diſcloſed her character more than ſhe thought it convenient.

In the midſt of this embarraſſment, Lady Richbell behaved as moſt people of her character do, who are obliged to come to ſome determination, that is, ſhe took the alternative, which ſhe ought not upon any account to have choſen. Your propoſals, ſir, ſaid ſhe to me, are ſo ſtrongly ſtamped with the mark of impertinence, that the making any formal reply would ſeem a piece of the utmoſt folly, they are rather deſerving of my moſt inveterate reſentment. Indeed I am of opinion that the

the natural giddineſs of your temper prompted you to this behaviour, and that you did not really intend to put ſo groſs an affront upon me; however, as this giddineſs of yours ſeems to be far from being at an end, I ſhould deſerve every thing of this kind, if I continued either hearing or ſeeing you for the future; wherefore, ſir, I muſt deſire you to forget that you ever thought me worthy of any correſpondence with you, or if you are determined not to forget it, let the remembrance only ſerve to put you in mind of the little probability there ever was of your ſucceeding. I was ſo chagrined at a reply which I ſo little expected, that I determined immediately how to act in the affair.

You are indeed, madam, ſaid I, very kind to me, I have well deſerved this ſentence that you have pronounced againſt me, be pleaſed, however,

ver, to believe that it is the appearance only againſt me, for that I never had any intention to affront you. I am very young, and have too little experience to know how to accommodate my behaviour to different women. I have for the moſt part taken up with her that was moſt in faſhion at the time of my attack. Your goodneſs which I have ſo frequently been an eye witneſs of, in putting up with ſeveral miſtakes of this kind, in people too who had probably much worſe intentions than myſelf, contributed yet more to the deceiving me. I thought with myſelf that this method of addreſſing you would rather be an entertainment than otherwiſe, and led on through the earneſt deſire of pleaſing you, I find I have ruined myſelf in your eſteem, merely through an unreaſonable effort to be agreeable. This is the only motive of my conduct, continued I,

in a tender ſtrain of voice, if you were leſs prejudiced againſt me I ſhould take the liberty of aſſuring you, that in every other inſtance, except the truſting to appearances too haſtily, I rather deſerve your pity than your reſentment.

LADY Richbell was too well acquainted with the inſignificancy of her own character, to give credit to what I had been ſaying, however an air of ſincerity was fully ſufficient to a woman of her ſtamp, to the appeaſing her fury. It was ſome time however before ſhe made any reply; I remained all the while in the utmoſt aſtoniſhment, becauſe I perceived by her countenance that ſhe had already determined in my favour, and indeed I was at a loſs to account for her embaraſſment after ſhe had opened the attack ſo boldly. I cannot tell, ſaid ſhe, whether I ought to believe you, you have certainly

tainly affected me without perſuading me in the leaſt; however as it is agreed on all hands, that people who are aſſured of their own conduct, may run ſome hazards, I am going to act as if I was really perſuaded. Pray what was your deſign in offering me the propoſals which you was pleaſed to make? Was you willing to appear in a favourable light, or had you ſecret hopes of gaining me to your purpoſe? In ſhort, was you willing to engage yourſelf ſo deeply, or did you deſign to render me truly contemptible on my compliance with your requeſt. Do not make any farther progreſs in a ſpeech, ſaid I to her, which I ſee plainly you are already beginning to be aſhamed of, and which indeed ought to give pain to a lady of your extreme delicacy. The ſole end of my propoſals was the appearing agreeable to you, and the endeavouring to inſpire you with a paſſion of which I was already too

ſenſible. To ſay the truth, I loved, nay farther, I adored you. I was unable to hold out any longer, without either having the happineſs of pleaſing you, or at leaſt without the comfort of perſuading you that I was not wholly unworthy of your regard. Engaged, and in ſome meaſure betrayed by the tenderneſs of my ſenſations, I have been often on the point of throwing myſelf at your feet, and making a declaration of the moſt ardent paſſion that man ever felt, but being conſtantly diſcouraged through fear of its meeting with an indifferent reception, I was ſecretly pining, and yet did not dare to acquaint you with the cauſe of my concern.

My paſſion having at length ſubdued all my fears, and being unable to languiſh any longer in ſo cruel an uncertainty, your being ignorant of my ſituation, I conſidered as one

of the greateſt misfortunes that could attend me, but yet too deeply was I in love to be very preſuming, I determined therefore to act with prudence and moderation. Upon this plan I ſat out, and with the utmoſt exactneſs weighed aud reflected on even your moſt minute actions. But this precaution, alas! proved altogether ineffectual, ſince the ſeveral outward appearances in a manner conſpired to deceive me; that gaiety of temper for which you are ſo remarkable, and which I ought to have conſidered merely as the effect of conſtitution and forechoice, appeared to me as the reſult of a light, unthinking mind. I miſtook for a contempt of love itſelf, that which I am now perſuaded you only meant as a mark of your diſeſteem of the ſeveral people around you. Nor was I at all leſs deceived by the extraordinary complacence with which you conſtantly behaved to that numerous

tribe

tribe of coxcombs who were ever fluttering at your houſe. I imagined that either through the prevalence of cuſtom, or the prejudice of education, you might have a fondneſs and partiality towards people of that ſort, and therefore I affected the character, that I might at leaſt be received upon an equal footing with the reſt. This is all the crime I have been guilty of, continued I, in a louder tone of voice than I had hitherto addreſſed her in, it is a very great one, I own, ſince had I believed you the valuable perſon you really are, I ſhould not have been to blame, but great as it is, give me leave to aſſure you, that the effects which it will produce, are ſo highly advantageous, that they ſcarce either leave me room, or afford me an inclination to repent. For had it not been for this lucky miſtake (for ſo you muſt permit me to call it) your ſeveral excellencies would, perhaps have

have lain concealed from me for ever; and when ſuch an advantage is the reſult, can there, think you, be any room for remorſe. Can one repent, or be ſorry for a crime which tends in the end to heighten and ennoble the paſſion I profeſſed, and the making the lovely object yet infinitely more amiable.

Too much precaution is often as prejudicial as too little, and eſpecially in matters relating to women; but, foraſmuch as the reader may take ſome time before he can give his full aſſent and conſent to this axiom, we will, for the preſent, drop the ſubject.

Had I been but half ſo aſſiduous with lady Richbell, I ſhould have got the better of her immediately, but as ſhe was too ſuſpicious by nature, and too contemptible in reality, to be able to think I was ſincere in

what I had been ſaying, ſhe diſcovered the ſnare which I had all along been laying for her, and accordingly determined to puniſh me for it ſeverely. I have ſeveral times forewarned my readers of the abſolute neceſſity of digreſſions, on the uſefulneſs of which I propoſe to write a treatiſe at my leiſure, but for fear the world may grow impatient, may, for aught I know to the contrary, indulge it with an introductory chapter on it, cooked up to their palates a-la-mode de Fielding. Obſervations are often made on people, eſpecially thoſe who appear in no favourable light, to this effect, that they think, act and ſpeak like women; but in my humble opinion, this is one of the moſt unlikely methods that can be taken either to raiſe or ſink the reputation of another. There is no knowledge perhaps ſo difficult as that of women, and the moſt tedious reſearch ends

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in Will Honeycomb's aphoriſm at laſt, "that they are not to be known." This is owing perhaps to their variety, their vanity, or to both. While our knowledge of any woman is partial, no influence of ours can affect either her thoughts or her actions. Indeed I am almoſt afraid of entering into the detail, were it not for the pleaſure and conſolation I expect to find as the reward of my labours. My own great embarraſsment which I freely acknowledged, muſt firſt be conſidered, as a material proof of my ſincerity; and indeed it is this which is itſelf the firſt definition of women, ſince it is an undoubted proof of the difficulty which lays in defining them aright, even after the advantage of a long acquaintance. But what am I ſaying, who is the happy man who can ever carry his ſelf-complacency ſo far, as to flatter himſelf he ever knew one woman thoroughly? Can I poſſibly be ig-

norant that a requiſite qualification for this arduous taſk, is the being born with all the foibles and with all the virtues that are to be met with in both ſexes? can I ſo ſoon have forgotten that in the courſe of my life I have ſeen ſeveral women, merely through the rage of popular prejudice in their favour, cried up as the ornaments of their ſex, and ſupporting themſelves in that character, by the eſteem of thoſe whoſe hatred and contempt they in reality deſerved, till at length they have been ſo giddy with their elevation, that their heads have turned round, and they fell through a weakneſs, whoſe effects they imagined would be no leſs than that of aſtoniſhing thoſe around them. But as a contraſt to this ſort, can I ſo ſoon have forgot the ſight of many people of the beſt faſhion, who renounced and gave up the ſeveral privileges to which their birth and fortune gave them an undoubted

right

right, and choſe to be renowned for the extraordinarineſs of their foibles; and when once they had attracted the obſervation of the world, relapſe into follies more glaring, ſhameful, and aſtoniſhing than ever, and end their lives at length by a ſincere attachment to one perſon alone, thus leaving men in doubt and uncertainty what opinion to form of them.

Who is not acquainted with Lady T—— by hearſay, ? and yet who is there that will ever know her thoroughly? the whole circle of polite people have kept, deſpiſed, and hated her by turns, and yet undeſerving as ſhe is, ſhe is happy in the ignorance of her character and ſentiments. Miſs C—— with an air of the utmoſt ſoftneſs and affability, has found out the ſecret of making herſelf reſpected by the men, and this not only by thoſe who have no great ſhare of underſtanding, and

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who are conſequently the dupes of every female artifice, but of thoſe likewiſe who have ever been accounted men of ſenſe and reputation. She has in the courſe of ſome years ruined a dozen women, and perjured as many men; ſhe is at length become the dread of both the libertine and the man of honour, of the coquette and the prude, and yet notwithſtanding all this terrible miſchief, I am thoroughly perſwaded that ſhe is good at the bottom. What devil then perhaps you may aſk, is it poſſeſſes her? to which I anſwer the very ſame devil that is in poſſeſſion of the whole ſex, namely vanity. Read the following account without any prepoſſeſſion, and if you do not agree with me in the aſſertion, why——— ſhut the book, and call me fool. Miſs C——— has been in the courſe of her life time twice in love, and twice ſhe has been jilted with equal ſpeed

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and openneſs, her perſon is but indifferent, and were it not for her continual ſeries of management, would be abſolutely inſupportable, and quite loſt to the world. She has ſometimes been known to put up with injuries that have been done her; nor did ſhe ever hurt any one thro' premeditated malice. This being laid down as the foundation of her character, it will be no difficult matter to believe that ſhe is dangerous without deſign, and that her extraordinary vanity which renders her ſo contemptible to every one who beholds her, is leſs prejudicial to the people around her, than to herſelf, and its pernicious effects retort with double force on her own tormented heart.

But no more of theſe reflections, let us proceed to facts which are as much more uſeful than the former, as the practical knowledge of an art is to the theore-

theoretical. The end I have been driving at (which perhaps, gentle reader, either through thy natural ſluggiſhneſs or dullneſs, for I will never ſuppoſe any imperfection in myſelf thou mayeſt not have perceived) was to prove that one of the moſt difficult accompliſhments in life, is the knowledge of women, and conſequently that the ſaying of any man that he has the underſtanding of a woman, is attributing to him a much larger ſhare of merit than is generally at firſt believed. I perceive at length that the attempting to define woman is really impracticable; I aſk their pardon therefore whoſe confidence I have abuſed, and yet I cannot properly be ſaid to have deceived any one, ſince I myſelf am included in the number.

I HAVE already obſerved that Lady Richbell was much more affronted at what I had been ſaying, than with

with my former attack, and therefore what ſhe was thinking of was the moſt effectual way to avenge herſelf upon me. The air of reſpect and of love which I had put on in my addreſs, furniſhed her with an opportunity of being amply recompenſed; ſhe need only continue aſſuming the character of conſequence which I had fooliſhly given her, and ſhe was ſure by this means, either of vexing me very heartily, or of getting rid of me for ever if I had not the reſolution to bear her behaviour, and ſhe could not fail of convincing the world that I was an object of her contempt; let me act which way I would, her anſwer was ſo exceedingly adapted to her deſigns, that I was aſtoniſhed at her conduct; I was charmed at her giving me ſo good a pretence for plaguing her, and notwithſtanding the ſeveral difficulties which I foreſaw I ſhould contend with, yet I would

would not for the world have had her leſs preſuming. I ſee very plainly, ſaid I, that I have adviſed you very ill, and find out at length that were you leſs ſuſpicious, you would be more expoſed to contempt, had you been either more eaſy of acceſs, or more ſuſceptible of being influenced, I ſhould ſcarcely have had time to be acquainted with your ineſtimable value; it is true indeed that by this time you would have been in love with me, but my happineſs, which would rather be the effect of an enſnaring art, than of a conſtant tender paſſion, would never have been ſo fully compleated, and had this been the caſe, the acquiſition of ſuch a heart as yours would have been attended rather with regret than delight, ſo that by refuſing to believe me, at preſent, you are doing me the moſt effectual piece of ſervice you can. Had you depended immediately and ſolely on

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the ſincerity of my profeſſions, there are numberleſs pleaſures the which we ſhould have loſt, becauſe I have now an opportunity of ſhewing numberleſs aſſiduities and tender anxieties, of which there would then have been no need; in the mean time permit me to aſſure you that the ſituation of your heart is by no means an indifferent thing to me. I have a number of apprehenſions which I am ſo preſuming as to communicate to you. I am thoroughly convinced that the world wronged you exceſſively, when it crouded you into the undiſtinguiſhed heap of thoſe ladies who are remarkably liberal of their favours; but at the ſame time ought it not by rights to have ranked you among thoſe who are ſuſceptible of the tender paſſion? Nay, is not your being ſuſceptible of it in a great meaſure the reaſon of my not being able to perſuade you. Are not you really in love with one

by

by whom you are equally beloved? I entreat you to compaſſionate my weakneſs, and to relieve me from my anxiety, which after all that can be ſaid, ought to be conſidered in no other light than as a proof of the ardency of my affection.

LADY Richbell's reply was what might be expected from a woman who underſtood her own intereſts ſo well. I thanked her with an air of tenderneſs and confidence. This produced in her an inſtantaneous, and indeed a moſt amazing alteration; I ſaw, or at leaſt imagined that I ſaw in her countenance the moſt eager deſire joined to that kind of anxiety which ſprings from the conſciouſneſs of thoſe deſires being unſucceſsful, and of our being the cauſe of it. I ſtopped for ſome time to behold this aſtoniſhing emotion with a good deal of pleaſure, but this ſoon went off; nay, I found upon examination that

I was now deeply intereſted, and I left her with ſome apprehenſions that her paſſions would ſo far get the better of her, as to induce her to favour me in a manner ſhe was unworthy of, and I indiſpoſed to do.

CHAP. V.

In which the reader is at his full liberty to determine whether the author is the greateſt dunce for writing, or himſelf the more trifling booby for reading any more.

LADY Richbell, whoſe eagerneſs was now conſiderably abated, began to lament that ſhe had not had more command over herſelf. I had obſerved her very attentively, and was now ſo little diſpoſed either to comfort or ſooth her, that ſhe could now no more doubt of my deſpiſing her, than ſhe had before ſuſpected

ſuſpected my indifference. Perſuaded of this truth, there was no kind of torment but what ſhe thought herſelf quite at liberty to uſe. She immediately reſolved upon mortifying herſelf ſo far, as to inſpire me with a real regard for her, which, as ſoon as accompliſhed, would doubtleſs make me the jeſt of every one that knew her. This, among others, it may be obſerved by the way, for I would fain have my readers accuſtomed to the making obſervations, and not go through life with the uſual inſipidity and inattention of every one around them. This, I ſay is an inconteſtible proof of the accurate knowledge that women have of our foibles, and of the ill opinion which in general we deſerve they ſhould have of us. If we had always a ſufficient reſpect to the dignity and ſuperiority of our natures, or, to apply it more cloſely to our preſent purpoſe, if we had always a

ſuffi-

ſufficient command over ourſelves to attach us to women well worth our purſuit, lady Richbell would never have thought of laying this ſnare for me, but as the caſe ſtands at preſent, we are always weak, groveling, and ready for any folly that a woman of addreſs ſhall think proper to engage us in. Can it be wondered at in the leaſt, that even women of the moſt deſpicable characters ſhould have ſome hopes of catching us.

LADY Richbell formed a right judgment of the human heart in general, by the reliance ſhe had on me, but mine was a very particular exception. I was too ſenſible, or, what will come nearer to the truth, I was too great a coxcomb to be capable of entertaining a ſerious paſſion for a woman of her character, and indeed I ſhould have felt much inward ſhame to have taken any precautions

precautions againſt it. We behaved to each other for eight or ten days afterwards like people who are determined to purſue the ſchemes they have in view; without ſeeming to give me any great room to hope, ſhe appeared by degrees with leſs reluctance to believe me; her dreſs was apparently much more ſtudied than before; ſhe was continually putting queſtions to me about my diverſions and amuſements, and ſeemed frequently thoughtful whenever I aſſured her, as I frequently did, that I could reliſh no amuſements, and that her love was the only object of my thoughts and deſires.

I VISITED lady Richbell ſo conſtantly, and ſeemed ſo aſſiduous, ſo tender, and ſo wholly taken up in my addreſſes to her; I counterfeited ſo deep a melancholy, and ſo languiſhing an air, that at length, deceived

ceived by her own inward emotions as much as by my outward artifices, ſhe began to believe that I was really in earneſt. The hopes of doing a prejudice is a kind of evil ſpirit which wholly poſſeſſes women of Lady Richbell's character, I beheld her conſtantly reſolute, and yet at times highly inconſiſtent with herſelf, but to give her her due, always equally malicious. She behaved very imperiouſly in public, and with all imaginable condeſcenſion in private. A new eagerneſs to diſtreſs me conſtantly ſuggeſted to her thoughts ſome new ſcheme to accompliſh it. Scarce was there a day paſſed but ſhe was ſure to put in practice every thing that love, coquettry, and malice combined could invent or propoſe. But alas, how dearly did ſhe pay for this momentary delight? ſhe ought indeed to regret very heartily ſo pleaſant an illuſion, which was, indeed, the more agreeable, as ſhe could not

but

but be conſcious that ſhe did not deſerve it in the leaſt. The time was then at hand, in which lady Richbell was to reap the ſad fruits of her long train of artifices, in which ſhe became the odium and contempt of every one; a ſituation in which even libertiniſm itſelf has ſome claim to our pity, when death, in itſelf a ſad refuge, muſt yet be conſidered as one of the moſt fortunate incidents that can happen. A terrible example indeed; but I fear wholly an uſeleſs one to the Richbells of this age.

I WAS ſitting one day with lady Richbell alone, and began to be heartily tired of her converſation, when the ſervant brought in word, that lord T——, and lady Suſan H—— were at the door. I knew them only by name, and their acquaintance with me was juſt of the ſame kind. I thought at that time, that lady Richbell

Richbell was juſt going to deny herſelf, had they not entered the room juſt at that very inſtant, for my lady grew quite pale upon ſeeing them, and received them in great confuſion. Lady Suſan was about nineteen years of age, of moſt exquiſite beauty, and a very fine underſtanding; coquette without artifice, and miſchievous without deſign; rather to be pitied than deſpiſed, gallant than tender; ſhe would never perhaps have had two admirers at once, had the qualifications of either her mind or her perſon been inferior to what they really were. Lord T—— was a coxcomb of moſt extraordinary vanity and aſſurance. An old debauchee, towards the latter end of his life, had introduced him into company as an uncommon character, and in that point of view he pleaſed well enough for a time, but upon loſing his ſupporter, he dropped off of courſe, till at length two ladies either

out of pity or gratitude, took him under their protection, and brought him again upon the ſtage. As he never had the honour of being either a friend or a rival of mine, ſo I was never thoroughly acquainted with his value if ever he had any. With reſpect to the little knowledge I had picked up about him, he thought falſely, and ſpoke worſe, abuſing every body without the leaſt diſtinction, without compaſſion for the unfortunate, or reſpect for the wiſe; he would juſtly have been conſidered as a moſt enormous monſter, if the times did not produce but too many of this ſtamp.

AFTER the uſual compliments had paſſed, lord T—— ſpoke to lady Richbell in the air and addreſs of a man who fancied all the while, he had a right to be impertinent; had I been born as great a fool or as inſolent a coxcomb as he, I ſhould in all

all probability have betrayed it in the ſtile and manner of theſe memoirs, I will however endeavour to give an exact detail of what he ſaid word for word. It is an age, madam, ſaid he, ſince I had the pleaſure of ſeeing you laſt, it is ſo much time loſt in my opinion, to both of us. Really my way of living is moſt inſufferably tedious, and 'tis really an unhappy thing to be ſo much at my eaſe. Lady Suſan began to deſpiſe my lord, and took every opportunity that was in her power to humble him. Really, ſaid ſhe to me with an air which denoted her conſidering me as a reſource againſt his impertinence, is not my lord an undoubted original ;. were you to mind what he ſays, one would imagine he would ſink under the immenſe load of his buſineſs, not a ſingle minute in the day can he afford to attend to the buſineſs of his heart, poor man! he will die merely of fa-

tigue; and what is moſt extraordinary of all, he is thoroughly perſuaded himſelf, that what he has been ſaying is true, he himſelf is one of the beſt kind of men in the world, and would not impoſe on us upon any account, but his vanity is the cauſe of all; if it were not for this, he would not ſo much as have the air of a coxcomb. Madam, replied my lord, in a tone of ſurprize, you ſpeak juſt like a woman who has been much prejudiced by this load of buſineſs which you are pleaſed to deny, and yet you know very well that this is by no means the caſe, nay farther, you have given me great reaſon to flatter myſelf with hopes of ſucceſs. Well, ſir, replied lady Suſan, looking at me again, do you think that he anſwers the character I have given of him. Madam, ſaid I, you embarraſs me extremely, in order to be a competent judge whether he anſwers the character you have

have been pleaſed to beſtow on him, he muſt be ſo good as to explain what he has juſt been ſaying to you, or if you will be ſo kind, which will be a good deal leſs trouble, as I apprehend, to tell me whether there is any agreement ſubſiſting between you, to talk to each other in a manner that it is impoſſible for any one to underſtand except yourſelves. Any agreement, ſir, replied my lady, pray where would be the uſe of it? This is a freſh difficulty you have ſtarted, you may have ſeveral private reaſons for talking myſteriouſly, the diſcovery of any one would be all-ſufficient to put a ſtop to any farther enquiries of mine, and I deſire— Oh, do not deſire, ſaid lady Suſan, I am ſure you will be ſo good as to clear up the difficulty yourſelf, were it only for this reaſon, to hinder my lord from going on with any more of his nonſenſe. What an obſtinate creature! ſaid my lord, do

you not ſee that the gentleman has inſinuated that we are upon mighty good terms together? The lady would be much in the wrong, replied I, to believe any ſuch inſinuation, becauſe ſhe would plainly diſcover an aſſurance in ſuch a ſpeech, which I am very incapable of putting on. I do not form my opinion of women by what the men are pleaſed to ſay of them, nor indeed do the women themſelves depend upon the profeſſions of the men. My determinations and deciſions are the conſtant reſult of ſettled, clear and convincing proofs, wherefore, ſir, I ſhall ſuſpend my judgment about your being upon good terms, till the lady herſelf has aſſured me that you are.

THIS was a reply with which and its conſequences, I had great reaſon to be well ſatisfied; lord T—— was ſtruck ſilent, and lady Suſan looked

looked at me with an air of the utmoſt gratitude, which denoted her being pleaſed at what I had done. I began now to intereſt myſelf greatly in her behalf, not in a manner that betrayed any great liking, for my opinion was, if I had time to form any regular one about her, that ſhe had been lord T——'s property, and this was ſufficient to guard me from being influenced by a paſſion in her favour. The emotion that ſhe raiſed is very difficult to be deſcribed, and was of that ſort which can be defined rather by determining what it was not, than by aſcertaining what it is. It was, however, unleſs I am very much miſtaken, merely a deſire of getting the better of her.

LADY Richbell had not taken any part in the diſpute, nay, ſhe had not as yet uttered one ſingle ſyllable, an undoubted proof of the greatneſs of

her confuſion. Lord T—— continued being very particular to her, or, what is rather the caſe, they underſtood each other very well. She could not but be ſenſible how thoroughly I deſpiſed him, and perceived that obliged as ſhe was to diſguiſe her behaviour before me, ſhe was going to expoſe herſelf to a deal of his impertinence. Theſe were her ſeveral reaſons for her ſilence and confuſion, and upon theſe conſiderations the reader will agree with me, that it was the beſt ſituation ſhe could chuſe, however, I am ſure it was that which beſt befitted her. When ſhame once overtakes a contemptible woman (and here by the way, note the propriety of the word *overtake*, ſince a woman of that ſtamp often gets the ſtart of all modeſty, and conſequently of all ſhame, if then ſhe ſhould afterwards ever happen to be troubled with it, it may not improperly be ſaid to overtake

take her.) When ſhame overtakes, as I ſaid before, a contemptible woman, nothing can equal the violence of its operation. Lady Richbell became a notorious inſtance of this, if ſhe ſpoke it was ſo ſlowly and obſcurely, that one would be tempted to think ſhe did not know herſelf what ſhe intended to ſay. By never aſking any queſtions, ſhe induſtriouſly avoided all unneceſſary details and diſputes. She neither preſumed to ſee or be ſeen, her pallid looks denoted the inward ſtruggle and agitation of her mind, in ſhort ſhe was in a ſituation in which ſhe might expect to meet with compaſſion even from lord T——.

The converſation now became general, lady Suſan, who was always ſure of ſhewing her underſtanding, ſhone on every ſubject, and kept us in continual amazement for a quarter of an hour, and yet e-

very thing ſhe ſaid was neither affected or forced, but naturally introduced, and ſtrictly belonging to the main topic from which ſhe ſat out. Lord T——, who could not help either being a fool or a coxcomb, ſoon ſet us to ſleep by his continual ſeries of undiſtinguiſhing abuſe. Upon his being aſked what news; oh dear, ſaid he, with his uſual air of impertinence, I have fifty ſtories to tell you which have ſcarcely been blown upon. The young marchioneſs who is ſo handſome and ſo ſilly, has juſt played a couſin of mine a very pretty trick. Pray, ſaid lady Suſan, with a very ironical air and countenance, who is this couſin of yours? why Harry Blount, if you muſt know, nothing is more ſurprizing than the trick ſhe has played him; you will be quite amazed and confounded on the bare recital——he is her humble admirer. Lord T—— ſurely expected his ſtory would meet with a

better

better reception: we none of us altered either our countenances or poſtures from what they were before; lady Suſan, indeed, put on a look, denoting the utmoſt curioſity, on purpoſe, as I imagine, to diſconcert and ſilence him. What, ſaid he, at length, are not you ſurprized at the relation? we are waiting impatiently for the event, replied lady Richbell, you promiſed us ſomething that ſhould be very extraordinary, but have not told it us yet. What is it not extraordinary that the marchioneſs ſhould be admired? you are ſtrange creatures not to be ſurprized at it. This frequent repetition would probably have made me laugh at any one elſe except my lord T——, but I thought, as it came from him, I ought to reſent it. We may be, ſaid I, very coolly, the very ſtrange creatures you are pleaſed to call us, but we do not ſuffer every body to take the liberty of calling us ſo. But

ſir,

ſir, ſaid he, with an air of great aſſurance, do you really know what kind of woman the marchioneſs is, of whom I have been ſpeaking? alas if you did but know her, I am ſure you muſt be ſurprized at the account I have been giving you. I was going to treat him in the manner he deſerved, but lady Suſan looked at me in ſuch a manner, as to inform me that it was not worth my while to chaſtiſe ſuch a puppy, and the impreſſion this look made, was ſufficient of itſelf to diſarm my reſolution.

Lord T—— fully perſuaded that lady Richbell was the propereſt perſon for him to addreſs, went up to her immediately, and whiſper'd ſomething in her ear. I embraced the opportunity which offered of ſpeaking to lady Suſan. She ſeemed well enough pleaſed at my beginning, although it was not conducted with all

all that formality which ſome of my readers might expect, conſidering we were ſuch ſtrangers to each other. Being encouraged by her reply, I thought it a kind of privilege to put on a leſs diffident air, and told her, that ſenſible as I was of her excellency and worth, I could not but conſider it as my greateſt misfortune, that I was not acquainted with her before. What you have been ſaying, ſir, replied ſhe, can be conſtrued either as a compliment or an affront, I ſhould be glad if you would tell me freely in what manner you meant it. I cannot conceive, madam, ſaid I, how it could poſſibly admit of two interpretations. All I wanted to let you know was, that I thought it very probable that you was under ſome engagements, and that as I was by no means inſenſible of your excellent worth, it was a very great misfortune that my application was not ſufficiently early.

I was miſtaken then I find, replied lady Suſan, I imagined that you wanted to acquaint me with your own engagements. And is not this a dream, replied I with tranſport, is it poſſible that upon ſo ſhort an acquaintance you can already intereſt yourſelf in my behalf, and take pleaſure in thinking of my attachment and ſervice? But I am flattering myſelf, perhaps, with imaginary happineſs, but ſhould this be the caſe, I think I would fain remain in ſo pleaſing an error as long as I am able.

Lady Richbell was well apprized of what infinite detriment lady Suſan might prove to her deſigns, and therefore did not permit us to diſcourſe long together; ſhe interrupted us accordingly, although I was perſuaded that the flattering anſwer I expected from lady Suſan would not

not be of any great conſequence, yet I cannot ſay but I was greatly chagrined at the being deprived of it. A look of lady Richbell's contributed to encreaſe my uneaſineſs the more. I felt ſome remorſe for the having undertaken to ruin her effectually, and for having engaged ſo deeply as not to be able to go back. This reflection made me peeviſh, and I accordingly became penſive and uncivil. Lady Richbell, who attributed my chagrin to the interruption I had met with, and which was ſufficient likewiſe to put her into an ill humour, took me aſide, and aſked me what was the matter. I thought ſhe had conjectured the cauſe of my anxiety, and the chance I ſaw there was of loſing all the ſteps I had gained, if I had given occaſion for her ſuſpicions, made me entirely in earneſt to be avenged.

THE manner in which lord T— had addreſſed her, and the unuſual length of their private converſation furniſhing me with an all-ſufficient excuſe, I told her, that melancholy was the natural conſequence of unſucceſsful love, and that after the ſcene of which ſhe had made me an eye witneſs, ſhe had not the leaſt right to complain of my uneaſineſs, which I owned it was out of my power to conceal. I cannot underſtand you in the light in which you would have me, replied ſhe, becauſe the regard you have lately ſhewn me is very agreeable, and I ſhould run a great riſque of diſcovering its falſhood. Do not go on any further, ſaid I, interrupting her, I need no reproaches to induce me to do any that is right, and if I ſhould ever be ſo unfortunate as to ſeem to go aſtray, a ſingle look of yours will be ſufficient, I aſſure you, to bring me back

back again to my former reſpect. I own freely to you, I ſuſpected that you had a great regard for lord T—, the apprehenſion itſelf is a ſufficient puniſhment; reſtore to me then that confidence which I flattered myſelf you had in my profeſſions of eſteem for you, and in return for this condeſcention, I proteſt ſolemnly to you that I will never give you any room to doubt of my ſincerity.

Lady Suſan ſeemed deſirous of engaging me as her humble ſervant, and therefore it was natural that ſhe ſhould be obſervant of my behaviour. The vivacity and earneſtneſs with which I had addreſſed lady Richbell, the violence of my emotions, the alterations in my countenance, in ſhort, nothing eſcaped her, nay, indeed, ſhe had overheard ſome of the particulars of our converſation. This made her immediately conclude that I was in love with lady Richbell,

Richbell, and that I had talked only to herſelf to inflame the jealouſy of the other. This thought, with the contempt ſhe had conceived for lady Richbell, and which the reader will agree was but too juſtly founded, rendered her quite inſupportable, and unable to keep any command over herſelf, inſomuch that during the time ſhe was pleaſed to ſtay, ſhe gave me numberleſs proofs of the utmoſt indignation. From that inſtant ſhe would not permit any thing to be ſaid to her, nay, ſhe went out of the room without vouchſafing me one look, and left me in a kind of melancholy that made me almoſt believe that I was really in love with her. I was not maſter of myſelf ſufficiently to get the better of and ſuppreſs the ſeveral emotions with which I was unhappily agitated, I took leave of lady Richbell, and went home immediately.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

A fricaſſé of revenge, love and hatred prepared a-la-mode.

DURING the whole evening, and at night I experienced the truth of this ſeemingly whimſical aſſertion, that man is the moſt unaccountable animal upon the face of the whole earth. The reader may remember that in the converſation I had had with lady Suſan, I was very far from having felt myſelf in love with her, or indeed of having perceived any deſire of being agreeable to her; what if I remember right I ſaid upon that occaſion, was, that the only end I had in view at that time, was the getting the better of her for the preſent, and that not the leaſt ſpark of intereſt had crouded itſelf into my deſign. Nor did I deceive myſelf at the time, being abſo-

abſolutely free both from love and deſire, but the difference of lady Suſan's behaviour was the immediate occaſion of ſo ſudden a change, by the which both my underſtanding and my heart were equally duped. I was really in love at the time I imagined that I was only angry, I had a very earneſt deſire of ſeeing her again, and this deſire which was occaſioned by my concern at her inequality of behaviour, ſeemed to me to be the effect of a longing to puniſh her for it. I did not once cloſe my eyes during the whole night, but was continually planning ſome new ſcheme to avenge myſelf; I thought myſelf ill uſed, and under an indiſpenſible obligation of reſenting it to the utmoſt; but I was ſtill yet more miſtaken, I perſuaded myſelf ſometimes that I heartily deſpiſed, nay, even that I hated her. She ſhall ſoon know, ſaid I to myſelf, whether I was intended to be the object

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of her ridicule, there are numberleſs reaſons which conſpire together to the inducing me to puniſh her; ſhe is a woman, and is at preſent the leſs deſerving of indulgence, becauſe ſhe had almoſt made me forget that ſhe was ſo; ſhe ſhall know moſt aſſuredly that ſuch tricks are not played with me without reaping the conſequences; nor can ſhe expect leſs than the whole weight of my reſentment, ſince ſhe has entirely forgot the reſpect, or at leaſt the deference that was due to me.

I WENT to her houſe the next day, agitated by a great number of different emotions. She was denied to me, for indeed I cannot think ſhe was really gone out, as there were two coaches in the court yard; this nettled me ſo much, that I was juſt going to intrude, notwithſtanding her orders. My pride, however, prevented me from doing it; I thought

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it would be expoſing myſelf to the porter, and therefore I went ſomewhere elſe to endulge my chagrin.

The hatred which I imagined I had towards lady Suſan, quite doubled that which I felt in reality for for lady Richbell. I began now to open my eyes, and to perceive the extreme folly of pretending to be the quixote of all thoſe whom ſhe had impoſed on; and this conſideration inflamed me ſo prodigiouſly, that I ſat out immediately to invite her to a public entertainment, on purpoſe to ſtreat her with the contempt ſhe deſerved. Very fortunately for her, ſhe was not at home, accordingly I went home highly diſpleaſed with both ladies, and greatly deceived in thinking that lady Suſan was become the object of my hatred and contempt.

LADY Richbell had not been deceived by the violence of my latter profeſſions, ſhe began to perceive the reaſon of my behaviour and aſſiduity towards lady Suſan, and that ſhe might not loſe the effect of all the conſtraint ſhe had put herſelf to, ſince her cruel reſolution of being revenged, ſhe began to ſpread it about that ſhe had quite caſt me off, which had almoſt broke my heart. My melancholy, which was too evident to be denied, and which got the better of my anger at lady Suſan's behaviour, was a ſort of confirmation of lady Richbell's aſſertion; it became at length the talk of the whole town, and every one adding what circumſtances they thought proper, to give it an air of probability, it was univerſally believed that I had fallen a dupe to the artifices of the deteſtable lady Richbell.

I was wholly ignorant with what was going forwards, for not being able to meet with lady Suſan at home during the ſpace of three whole days. I had ſtaid at home almoſt the whole time; but alas what a ſtroke was it to my vanity when at the end of that time lady Suſan herſelf informed me of the report that was ſpread, but I will not anticipate the order of the events, and more eſpecially as this part of my ſtory deſerves a ſuccinct account, I ſhall take care to obſerve all due regularity. During the ſpace of three days I was almoſt on fire with impatience to behold lady Suſan, to reproach her for her behaviour, and was ſo affected at my misfortune in not being able to meet with her, that I was quite at a ſtand; on the evening of the third day I went into Kenſington Gardens to indulge the vein of melancholly which had

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for ſome time paſt oppreſſed me; towards the cloſe of the evening I beheld, at ſome diſtance, lady Suſan with a man who was to me an utter ſtranger, and who ſeemed to be about five and twenty years of age. I felt upon ſeeing him, a kind of confuſion and anxiety, which it is very difficult to deſcribe, which however did not reſemble in the leaſt the reſult of any emotion of hatred; I felt myſelf feeble, and accordingly I ſat down on a bench, which, if they kept on their walk, they muſt neceſſarily paſs by. Inflamed by the deſire of ſeeing her, I kept my eyes fixed and enchanted as it were by the ſound of her voice, I could eaſily diſtinguiſh it at a diſtance, and was ſo exceſſively attentive to the mere ſound of it, that I did not make out the ſubject of her diſcourſe, nor did I attend in the leaſt to the nature of my own emotions. Moments ſpent in ſuch

a manner, afford tranſports inconceivable, but are over ballenced alas, by ſucceeding ones of inexpreſſible regret.

LADY Suſan no ſooner perceived me than ſhe croſſed into another walk, giving me at the ſame time a look of the utmoſt contempt. The human heart in many inſtances may aptly be compared to a ſtage, on which the ſeveral paſſions are alternately ſucceeded, and having ſtrutted their hour, walk off again to make room for others coming on. I felt at that inſtant my reſentment returning, and this introduced the uſual train; I became almoſt in an inſtant jealous, inſolent, furious, in ſhort I believe, could I have got her into my power, I ſhould have ſacrificed her without the leaſt heſitation to the violence of my paſſion. I went after her immediately, and addreſſed her with an air of the utmoſt

moſt haughtineſs and diſdain, ſhe received me like a perſon whom ſhe was unwilling to be known to, and ſeeing that I perſiſted in my reſolution to walk with her, ſhe had the aſſurance to aſk the young man that was with her whether he was acquainted with me at all, and how long he had known me. I was juſt going to treat her in the manner ſhe deſerved, but my pride prevented me; I was afraid of not being able to counterfeit ſo well as ſhe had done, and therefore thought it moſt adviſeable to addreſs her in a more mild accent. Madam, ſaid I to her, I aſk ten thouſand pardons, I took you for a lady of my acquaintance, and imagined I was making up to lady Suſan H——, but have diſcovered my miſtake, and ſhall take my leave accordingly.

LADY Suſan knew very well that I was accounted in general a man of

a very malicious turn of mind, and the manner in which I had been addreſſing her, gave her room to think that I ſhould not ſpare her in the leaſt, and as it was her undoubted intereſt (as I afterwards found out) to be upon the beſt terms ſhe could with the young man ſhe was walking with, ſhe ſoon grew more compoſed and came to a better temper. But, ſaid ſhe to me, affecting the utmoſt aſtoniſhment and ſurprize, are not you ſir Edmund ———, a particular friend of lady Richbell's, whom I met the other day at her houſe? the very ſame, replied I; well, I believe, ſaid ſhe, there is no body comes up to me in giddineſs; I hope, ſir, you will allow me to recollect myſelf a little. Theſe laſt words were ſpoken with an air of great pertneſs; indeed madam, ſaid I, I have the ſame apology to make, for thinking myſelf miſtaken in taking you for lady Suſan, this is indeed

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the very height of giddineſs and diſſipation, however every thing is well over, ſince we are come to the knowledge of each other at laſt.

As we were by this time a little recovered from the confuſion into which this incident had thrown us, we talked together for ſome time like two people who neither eſteem, love, or fear each other; I found out that the young man who was walking with her, was lord Dalrymple, and induced through the eager deſire I had of inſtructing lady Suſan in a method of behaviour, I turned the diſcourſe to the opinion I had in general of women. The counteſs of C——, who paſſed by us juſt that inſtant, afforded me a very ample field to expatiate in; is not that the little counteſs of C——? ſaid I, to lady Suſan, yes, ſaid ſhe, it is, and her everlaſting lord B—— by her ſide. Pray, ſaid I, do not judge ſo

haſtily of matters, the perſon whom you are pleaſed to call everlaſting, has not been with her above ſix weeks or two months; indeed replied lady Suſan, a man who is made uſe of for nothing during ſix weeks, I think may be ſaid to have been with her ſix ages. Permit me, ſaid I, to anſwer you in a more formal and methodical manner, for as the ſubject is important, it will admit of it very well. Firſt then give me leave to aſſure you that your foundation is falſe, becauſe it is agreed on all hands, that a man is never wholly uſeleſs, but that he is always employed in ſome way or other, but even ſuppoſing he was not, pray who haſever told you that lord B— is ſo uſeleſs a commodity to the counteſs as you ſeem to aſſert? It is the talk of the whole town; the talk of the whole town, ſurely madam you are miſtaken, he is undoubtedly of this uſe to her, as he is a living inſtance,

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that even after people are much paſt their prime, yet they are not entirely deſtitute of admirers; indeed ſir, ſaid ſhe, this is a very malicious reflection indeed, but it comes properly enough from a perſon of your character. Perhaps, ſaid I, I am the only Perſon who think about it, and therefore it is that the reflection is called malicious; were I leſs penetrating, more credulous, and conſequently more eaſy to be impoſed on, I ſhould have a thouſand fine ſtories made up of me in a minute; but my method in theſe caſes is to reflect, to doubt, and to examine. I flatter no one, but deſpiſe almoſt all; and therefore it is no wonder that the world endeavours to repay me my contempt. The women for inſtance have not the leaſt mercy on me; and why? do they in reality either hate me or deſpiſe me? not in the leaſt, but the truth is, that I ſet the proper value on their favours

it will bear, and that only I never confide in their ſincerity, or indeed believe but ſeldom that they have any, and this is the reſult of my experience; now the character I give them, of the juſtice of which they themſelves are but too conſcious, is what expoſes me in the main to their raillery and diſpleaſure, which in effect is only outward ſhew, becauſe I am perſuaded that at the bottom they have a very good opinion of me.

INDEED, replied lady Suſan, this is one of the moſt unaccountable paradoxes that I ever heard in my life. Do you ſay that the women have no mercy upon you, and yet that in the main their opinion of you is very good? I think nothing can well be more abſurd than this aſſertion. You will give me leave, replied I, to juſtify its truth, and I promiſe you, you will be a conſiderable

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gainer by the bargain, for ſince you ſeem ſo aſtoniſhed at the account I have given, it is a full proof to me that you are equally unacquainted with your own heart as with that of other women. My lord, I dare ſay will very readily pardon this interuption of your converſation, becauſe you will reſume it again by and by with a greater degree of ſatisfaction, and for this plain reaſon, becauſe you will have an opportunity of rendering it more intereſting to each other.

My lord ſaid not a ſyllable by way of reply, his countenance expreſſed both grief and aſtoniſhment. I began to ſuſpect how matters went with him; he had till then been violenty in love with lady Suſan, and believed her a woman well worth his utmoſt aſſiduity, but now from the manner in which I addreſſed her, he concluded that ſhe deſerved nei-

ther his care nor his eſteem. Lady Suſan ſaw as far into the matter as I did, and her concern for it was almoſt equal to my tranſport; ſhe would fain have left the walk, but an emotion of ſome kind or other, and which I ſhall here call by no other name than that of a very fortunate one for me, prevented her, ſhe choſe rather by ſtaying to guard a gainſt what ſhe very evidently foreſaw I was going to ſay to her, than to give me any freſh advantage over her by a precipitate departure. Emboldened by the ſuperiority which I already had over her, I did not reſtrain my natural impetuoſity in the leaſt; women, continued I, in general, know themſelves pretty ſufficiently, as their failings are for the moſt part the effect of weakneſs or ſingularity, they have hardly any but what they are very juſtly conſcious of, and no body knows the opinion

pinion that will be formed of them in public, better than themſelves; being rather weak than fooliſh, and conſequently rather inconſiderate than impudent, they have not the aſſurance to hate a man of honour who paſſes cenſure on them, nay they would oftentimes have ingenuity enough even to love a man of that character, or at leaſt to eſteem him, had not an unhappy weakneſs, ſubjected them entirely to thoſe impudent women whom the folly of mankind has ſet up by way of patterns and models for others, and who have laid down for a rule, that every one who condemns them muſt be the object of their deteſtation; you are, madam, continued I, addreſſing myſelf to lady Suſan, you are one of the moſt proper inſtances that I can produce in favour of my opinion; you have, during the courſe of your life, done numberleſs cruelties which you yourſelf can-

cannot approve in your own mind, and were you left entirely to yourself would abhor and detest, but which must be attributed wholly to the power of custom and the prevalence of fashion; you never doubted in the least of the truth of what I have been telling you, nor indeed am I surprized at it in the least, for how could you well imagine that you had committed any cruelties, when it never came into your head that it was possible for you to commit them. Too much mistaken as to yourself, to suspect that you could err, what ever you did appeared natural to you; nor indeed can I blame you in the least, since it was not you that was in fault, but your vanity that enslaved you to the follies of other women, you thought yourself in the right, whereas really you was wrong, you was accused of being designing, wheras in truth you was only weak.

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You ſee plainly, continued I, encouraged a good deal by lady Suſan's confuſion, you ſee plainly that notwithſtanding all the reaſon that you have given me for complaining of you, I am far from taking the leaſt advantage of it; on the contrary I am ſo far from being willing to take any revenge, that I rather compaſſionate than blame you; yes madam, I compaſſionate you, for you ſeemed indeed deſigned by nature for love, and think you then that one can behold, without any emotion, a total miſapplication of your talents and abilities? can one reflect without compaſſion, on the conſiderable advantages you have loſt by ſacrificing the moſt tender of all ſenſations, to the moſt betraying of all illuſions?

It was now high time for me to be ſilent, lady Suſan confounded to the

the laſt degree at the ſeveral particulars I had been mentioning, was now become in reality the object of my compaſſion. I took my leave of her without waiting for any anſwer, but I was moſt exceſſively ſurprized when I beheld my lord Dalrymple making his bow with all the indifference in the world, and going off as faſt as he could. Women in general foreſee the misfortunes that hang over them in proportion as they have deſerved them. Lady Suſan, perſwaded beyond any contradiction that ſhe had irretrievably loſt her conqueſt, regained her uſual pitch of aſſurance together with her concern. I ſaw her look at me very tenderly, and with a ſort of deſign, as I imagined, of perſwading me that ſhe had not the leaſt intention to deceive me.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

A lucky reconciliation. A lovely episode, containing a lady's memoirs; and, what is a lucky incident for the author, actually so many pages of paper.

WHAT an unaccountable, nay, what an incomprehensible animal is MAN! That look, which after what had passed between lady Susan and me, should not have been noticed in the least, now entirely took away my resentment, and gave me the same feelings for her that I had before our last interview and discourse. You are very angry with me, madam, said I, and upon examination I find that I am not altogether so free from blame as I imagined. But alas! what man could be made so unfortunate by you as I am, and yet wholly forgive it. What crime

crime have I committed? what hatred has ſucceeded to ſo many inſtances of your kindneſs? were they vouchafed me at firſt only to make me more ſenſible of the want of them, whenever you ſhould pleaſe to withdraw them. Tell me then, ſincerely, what is the reaſon of ſo unaccountable a behaviour? and in return I ſwear by what I hold inviolably ſacred, yourſelf and the paſſion which I ardently feel for you, that I ſhall always admire and be bound to you for your frankneſs. Give me a new motive to the continuance of my love, by kindly informing me in what inſtances I am to blame, or if you are the fair criminal, give me an opportunity of pardoning you with readineſs. Lady Suſan, convinced by the vehemence of my proteſtations, and more inclined to believe me than ſhe really imagined herſelf to be, owned to me fairly, that from the firſt inſtant

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ſhe beheld me, ſhe had conceived a great liking towards me, independent of the great pains I had taken to recommend myſelf to her notice, and that led on by the reliance ſhe thought my diſcourſe deſerved, ſhe had given herſelf up ſo entirely to the bent of her inclinations, that they were ripened into love, but that the converſation I had held with lady Richbell in her preſence, and the low, deſpicable light in which that lady had repreſented me in public, had affected her ſo much that ſhe had taken a ſettled reſolution to ſuppreſs her deſires, and that it was owing to this that ſhe had behaved in the manner abovementioned. What, ſaid I to myſelf, quite amazed at the account which I had juſt now received, has that deteſtable monſter dared to do me ſuch an irreparable injury! Her death alone ſhall ſecure her from the puniſhment which I intend to inflict on her as her reward, and

ere two days be paſt, will, as far as I am able, make her the abſolute ſcorn and deteſtation of the public; I will—But here I ſtopped in order to give an account of the ſeveral reaſons which induced me to feign a tenderneſs for lady Richbell.

Lady Suſan had too good an opinion of me to doubt my ſincerity in the leaſt. She aſſured me ſeveral times that ſhe believed every ſyllable, and promiſed to behave in as agreeable a manner as I could wiſh, as ſoon as I had compleated my intended ſcheme of revenge againſt lady Richbell. I forbore preſſing her any farther on this head, for fear of going too far at once, and indeed I was fully employed in accompliſhing my ſcheme. We parted from each other mutually ſatisfied at the reconciliation, and I immediately ſet about the execution of my project.

And now methinks the reader, having ſufficiently yawned, is well diſpoſed for a nap, perhaps damning the author for having contributed to his drowſineſs by the dullneſs of his performance. But know, gentle ſir, that we affirm of this our book what the famous Dr. Ward does of his drops, and Dr. James of his powders, that they will do what you want to have done, which is a genteel way of declaring that they know nothing of the operations of their reſpective medicines. Juſt ſo of theſe ſheets, if thou wanteſt a nap, it will, to ſpeak in medical guiſe and faſhion, conciliate repoſe; but if thou art diſpoſed to be of a more airy and mercurial diſpoſition, dip into the following ſheets in which by way of variety, we will introduce lady Suſan H—— to thy acquaintance, and give thee her memoirs, as delivered into my own hands, and containing that

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part of her life which ſhe had ſpent before I had the pleaſure of being known to her. I ſhall afterwards reſume my own ſtory, which if thou art impatient to peruſe, thou ſhalt not long be held in ſuſpence for its continuation. In the mean time conſider that it is the lady herſelf ſpeaks.

You muſt not expect a ſtory drawn up according to the exact rules of art; for if you really do expect any ſuch thing, why really you will be in the ſame caſe with good docter S——, who has waited theſe ten years for a living from his grace, having always had the ill luck to come juſt a moment too late, or without any farther circumlocution, you will be—diſappointed. It will conſiſt of a mixture, which if you have a fondneſs for novelty and a perpetual change, may not be diſagreeable. The oddneſs and ſingularity which runs thro' the

the whole when repreſented on the ſtage of life, has afforded matter of amuſement to ſome people of true taſte, let me caution you by the way not to expect any wonders, I am neither enchanted nor deified; but to proceed, for the performance will ſpeak itſelf much better than two reams of introductory trifling. My birth was ſplendid, and my fortune would be anſwerable, had not the capriciouſneſs of fortune turned the ſcale againſt me. The generality of ſober plodding men, who, perhaps, never roſe to a generous thought, much leſs to a worthy action in their lives, have thought proper to affix a kind of infamy and diſgrace to thoſe children who are born without a previous ceremony called marriage. But can this determination be juſt? our birth is an event independant of our choice, and ſhould therefore never be made a part of our misfortune; this rigid rule then is merely the effect

fect of cuſtom; but this cuſtom, it muſt be conſidered, is authorized, and it was my hard fate that it was ſo.

I am the daughter of duke——— my mother was one of the ladies of the bedchamber to the queen, with whom ſhe was highly in favour, and had it not been for the little incident of my birth, would have been entitled to a very coſiderable fortune. One of the foreign miniſters fell deeply in love with her, but ſhe was never able to endure him in the leaſt, the duke had already found the way to her heart, which at the ſame time that it was noble and generous, was likewiſe tender and faithful. But alas, theſe are ſo far from being any recommendations, that they are the misfortunes and contempt of the polite age we live in, where intereſt and vanity, for the moſt part, get the better even of tenderneſs itſelf.

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But my mother was ſo entirely out of the mode, that ſhe hearkened to nothing but her own inclinations. She treated the foreign miniſter with marks of the utmoſt indifference, while in ſecret ſhe gave the duke undoubted proofs of her affection.

Her beauty, which was ſtill more engaging by her eaſy air and addreſs, made each other pleaſed, and they vowed mutual fidelity by numberleſs proteſtations, as binding to the full as a dull, tedious ceremony, which often tacks people together almoſt in ſpite of their inclinations, or at beſt with a liſtleſſneſs which does not lay long concealed. I think the former moſt preferable, but as I obſerved before, it is not authorized by cuſtom, and therefore it expoſed me in the ſequel to diſgrace. My mother, who in yielding to the violence of her inclinations, had not had much reflection, began to con-

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ſider at length when it was of little ſervice, and her whole concern was to conceal the bigneſs of her waiſt from the obſervation of the court. The duke, who was greatly alarmed at ſeeing her ſo viſibly concerned, conſented to her requeſt without the leaſt ſcruple. She determined to quit the court, and he accordingly took the ſteps neceſſary for her departure. Two faithful ſervants were entruſted with the execution of the ſcheme; a poſt-chaiſe was prepared for her, and ſhe ſat off with expedition, but was ſcarcely gotten a few miles from town, when it was abſolutely neceſſary to ſtop, her pains came upon her, ſhe was ſat on the graſs in the midſt of a field, on a fine ſummer morning, and there, amidſt the warbling of nightingales, was delivered of her burden, which in effect was no leſs than your humble ſervant. This eaſed her prodigiouſly, and within three or four hours after,

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ſhe made a ſhift to get into the carriage, and was conveyed to the next houſe, which luckily happened to belong to a very rich farmer. My mother there met with all the aſſiſtance that ſhe needed, the farmer's wife took care of me till I was ſix years of age, but I remained in the houſe full three years after. The counteſs of ——, for that was my mother's name, having entirely got the better of her chronical diſtemper, returned to London. I have been told it was with inconceivable reluctance that ſhe left me behind; her tender embraces and tears, were undoubted proofs of the greatneſs of her affection for me, whom ſhe conſidered as the pledge of a lover who adored her. She was above two whole hours taking an affectionate leave. This I was afterwards informed of by my good nurſe, as ſoon as I was capable of underſtanding what ſhe ſaid. She farther told me that ſhe

left in her hands a conſiderable ſum of money to pay my expences, and that a fine gentleman all over gold, for that was my nurſe's ſimple deſcription of the man, came once a year to ſee me, and paid her annually the ſum of fifty pounds. She likewiſe told me that ſhe was not acquainted with the names either of the gentleman or the lady; that ſhe had once the ſum of five hundred pounds paid her, with a meſſage that ſhe ſhould receive no more annual remittances, the reaſons of which ſhould be diſcloſed in time. She added afterwards, that I ſhould be very eaſily known, having the particular marks of a lamprey on my left arm, and ſix toes on my right foot. Theſe are all the particulars of my birth that I became acquainted with for ſome time, and it was this ignorance that expoſed me to numberleſs different events, the recital of which may however prove an amuſement to you.

I ſhall not trouble you with all the ſeveral particulars of my infancy, nor yet ſhall I paſs them over wholly in ſilence, ſingling out the eighth year of my age as the date from which I chuſe to begin.

A YOUNG country boy, ſon to a neighbouring farmer, about fourteen years of age, and tolerably handſome, ſaw me frequently at church, he was pleaſed with my appearance, and conſtantly told me ſo as often as he met me. He contracted an intimacy with the farmer's daughter at whoſe houſe I was, and under this pretence uſed to come to our houſe very frequently. William, for that was the young clown's name, had ſome remarkable good qualities, conſidering his ſituation in life, fully ſufficient to inherit his father's money, and the farmer with whom I lived, and who paſſed me off in the neighbourhood for his neice, whom I ſhall accordingly for the future call

my uncle, would have been greatly pleaſed to have ſeen William courting his daughter. He made him welcome at his houſe whenever he came, but it was impoſſible not to diſcover that he meant his viſits to me. Jenny, for that was the name of my pretended couſin, was exceſſively chagrined at the preference that was given me, and indeed betrayed it in her countenance, for ſhe was one of thoſe good creatures who can never keep a ſecret, not even their own, but tell you very freely whatever is in their mind, and that whether you deſire to hear it or no.

William finding within himſelf a great liking for me, and a ſort of emotion which preſided over and governed the greater part of his actions, uſed to ſay, faith, Polly, you are pretty, and if you like me I ſhould be as happy as a king, and we ſhould be married together, for father I am ſure

ſure would not refuſe his conſent, and we ſhould live better together than the 'ſquire and his lady, who are always ſcolding at each other becauſe they are mutually diſſatisfied with their behaviour. Oh, William, ſaid I, you muſt not be in ſuch a hurry, I am too young as yet to think of any ſuch thing. Oh, I can ſtay long enough, replied William, only pleaſe to tell me whether you like me or no, and I ſhall be well ſatisfied. I made no anſwer.

THIS little intrigue, if it deſerves the name of one, gave me a deal of pleaſure, which vaniſhed however upon the leaſt conſideration. One ſunday when I was coming from church with William and Jenny, we perceived a fine coach ſtanding at our door, which ſurprized us exceedingly. As ſoon as we got in, we ſaw two people very handſomely dreſſed, who ſpoke to me with an air of politeneſs and reſpect that diſconcerted

me exceedingly; but the worſt part of the ſtory was yet behind, for my nurſe told me with tears that they were come to fetch me. I will not go with them, ſaid I, with much emotion, and overwhelmed at the ſame time with my tears, which I ſhed in prodigious abundance. Your preſence is abſolutely neceſſary, ſaid one of the gentlemen, believe me miſs, theſe good people are not your real parents, and in a very little time you will be heartily glad that you have changed your ſituation; then, without waiting for my anſwer, he took and placed me in the coach. I cried out moſt horribly, and poor William, quite reduced to deſpair at the thoughts of loſing me, ſeized hold of a pitchfork to oppoſe their taking me away, and would have done conſiderable miſchief, had they given him time, but they drove away very furiouſly, and poor William, at length quite fatigued with running,

was

was obliged to give over the purſuit, and return home.

It was not long, however, before, after much enquiry, he found out where I was, for the place to which I had been conducted was not above ſixteen miles diſtant from him. It was ſome time before he could get an opportunity to ſpeak to me, and then I had quite forgotten him and the impreſſion he had once made on me, I told him plainly, and with ſome degree of anger, never to come to me any more, which chagrined him ſo exceſſively, that he went home and broke his heart. This piece of intelligence I received from Jenny, whom I ſaw ſome time afterwards. I was greatly touched with his misfortune, and mourned for him in earneſt, but my ſorrow was not of long continuance. When the heart is ſenſible only of emotions of gratitude, its wounds are ſoon heal-

The conſtancy of his affection recommended him to my notice when alive, and to my pity when dead, for conſtancy ſeems peculiar to people in his ſtation, at leaſt I may ſay, I have never met with it in the higher ranks of life.

As ſoon as I was got to the place that they had prepared for my reception, and I had ſufficiently recovered the ſorrow I expreſſed at leaving the farmer's, I was entruſted to the care of people very proper to wear off that ruſticity I had contracted, and teach me a behaviour more ſuitable to my birth. A very beautiful lady about two or three and twenty years of age, and to whom I was reckoned to bear much reſemblance, took care of my education, and two women and a man were given me as my attendants. This was the whole of my retinue, and yet even this little gave me infinite pleaſure at that time

time; but I ſoon contracted a great liking for magnificence, and this diſpoſition has continued in me even until this day. My attendants were wholly under my guidance, which contributed the more to make me pleaſed with my preſent ſituation, and to the forgetting the good farmer's houſe where I had been brought up, and my ruſtick lover; I ſay to the forgetting, for in leſs than a month afterwards I thought no more about them. And who is there at my time of life that would not have been overjoyed at the diſtinctions that were paid me? for be pleaſed to remember, that at the time I am now ſpeaking of myſelf, I was only nine years of age, and to children of this ſtanding, nothing is more enchanting than any reſpect that is paid them. However, in a few months after my removal, the lady, who had only been ſo indulgent to me in every inſtance, in order to know more tho-

roughly my natural diſpoſition, began to aſſume by degrees a greater ſuperiority, which gave a very ſenſible mortification to my pride. I had contracted during my abode in the country, ſeveral ruſtic airs which it was abſolutely neceſſary to unlearn, for notwithſtanding they are more natural, and more innocent than the perpetual reſerve of a woman of faſhion, yet they by no means agreed with the light in which I was intended to appear in public. Fanny, the name of my chambermaid, was very aſſiduous in telling me of what ſhe thought was amiſs, nor were all their endeavours wholly thrown away, ſince at the end of three years I was not afraid of appearing any where without ſhewing thoſe evident marks of good breeding which are made the characteriſticks of a woman of diſtinction. I was now juſt entering into my thirteenth year, a girl of that age begins to think a little, and thoughts were ſuch as gave great expec-

pectations to the ſeveral people about me, my underſtanding was continually opening more and more by freſh ſallies of wit, and theſe were managed with an artifice and diſcretion but rarely to be met with. Lucinda, for that is the name I ſhall give to the young lady who took care of me, was quite tranſported with my improvements, and redoubled her care. Be aſſured, my dear Suſan, would ſhe often ſay to me, that your parents will place you in the ſituation you have a right to. But who are my parents, did I frequently reply, I ſhould be glad to know who they are. For God's ſake, would ſhe ſay, make yourſelf eaſy upon this head, you ſhall know all in good time.

This was the ſituation I lived in till I attained my thirteenth year, and this was indeed the moſt delightful part of my life, I mean the happieſt portion of it, and not the moſt intereſting, for otherwiſe my ſtory could

could not have the leaſt claim to any attention. Indeed, I muſt own, I would fain have ſuppreſſed the trifling incidents I have mentioned, but then my birth would have been concealed at the ſame time, and the knowledge of that is abſolutely neceſſary, in order to the better underſtanding of the ſequel. During the four years of my polite education, I had contracted an acquaintance and friendſhip with ſeveral ladies of diſtinction in the neighbourhood; but there was one in particular for whom I had a very great regard; nor was ſhe deficient, in the leaſt, in the returns of her eſteem. Her name was lady Mary T——, we uſed to viſit each other regularly every week. One day, that ſhe had ſent me word ſhe ſhould be very glad to ſee me, Lucinda accompanied me thither, according to her laudable cuſtom. We found a ſelect company gathered together, and among the reſt a young

gentleman

gentleman in the neighbourhood who had been returned but a few months from making the grand tour. I had heard him ſpoken of very frequently in the light of an amiable young gentleman, and with this prepoſſeſſion in his favour, I conſidered his perſon very attentively.

Sir Philip Boſton, for that was his name, had a very open countenance, his ſtature was rather of more than ordinary height, very well made, his eyes black, in ſhort, upon the whole, he might properly be called a handſome man. This is a point in which a woman's word may be eaſily taken, nor, indeed, was I inſenſible of this agreeable recommendation. As to underſtanding he was not defective in the leaſt, and it was, beſides, of that ſort which never fails of being agreeable on account of its enlarged and communicative turn. To this may I add a prudent meaſure

ſure of freedom and reſerve, which contributed to engage your confidence and eſteem, and, withal, ſuch amazing penetration, that the moſt diſtant hint, nay, the leaſt geſture was ſufficient for him to diſcover your thoughts and opinion; add to all this, that he had a moſt amazing command of tears; he wept whenſoever he thought it would effectually ſerve his purpoſe, and this is an artifice which women are ſeldom, if ever proof againſt; at leaſt, I may venture to affirm, that I ſpeak from experience. But the worſt part of his character, and the moſt detrimental one, was his inconſtancy and treachery, pregnant inſtances of which will be met with in the ſequel of this ſtory, but which I ſhall not mention here, that I may not anticipate them.

SIR Philip appeared to me in a very amiable light; he addreſſed himſelf to me, and this behaviour

tranſported

tranſported me, this diſtinction flattered my vanity, and confirmed my inclination towards him. He paid his compliments with the utmoſt addreſs, which compleated my defeat; for flattery armed with artifice, never fails of having its effect on the heart of a young girl who is naturally tender, and mine was ever ſuſceptible of the ſofteſt impreſſions. However, as I was under Lucinda's inſpection, I took care to conceal my ſatisfaction, that ſhe had not the leaſt ſuſpicion of what was, in reality, the truth. My method of behaviour, which as I ſaid before, had an appearance of reſerve, ſeemed ſtill more to encreaſe ſir Philip's aſſiduity, and it was not many days before he found a favourable opportunity, and declared himſelf my humble admirer in form, and this in ſo lively and affecting a manner, that I could no longer conceal from him the ſituation of my heart. He

ſeemed

ſeemed to be oppreſſed with a very deep melancholly, and I appeared very thoughtful, I was delighted at his counterfeited ſorrow, and he, notwithſtanding his ſerious air, ſoon gave me to underſtand that he was well pleaſed with my behaviour.

Ever ſince that time ſir Philip, under various pretences, uſed to come frequently to the place where I was, however as I was too ſtrictly watched for him to have an opportunity of ſpeaking to me alone, he communicated by way of letter what he thought proper to ſay; I anſwered his letter, and that became the ſource of all my ſucceeding misfortunes. Lucinda, who felt for me all the tenderneſs of a parent, and to whom I lay undoubtedly under great obligations, beſides that ſhe was in reality my mother, which was unknown to me at that time, and concealed from my knowledge

for

for very weighty reaſons. Lucinda, who for ſome time had ſuſpected our correſpondence, diſcovered it at length; this chagrined her prodigiouſly, and determined her in the end to give me ſome idea of the greatneſs of my birth, in order to ſuppreſs a fondneſs which ſhe foreſaw would be productive of ſuch fatal conſequences. But, alas, all her precautions were ineffectual; it was decreed that this lover ſhould be the cauſe of my misfortunes, and it was impoſſible to eraſe the impreſſion he had made; nay, I feel a tenderneſs for him yet, notwithſtanding his ill uſage, and the diſtance of ten years, which it is full ſince I ſaw him laſt.

Susan, ſaid this tender parent to me one day, I had always imagined that you conſidered me as your friend. Has not my continual care and anxiety for your welfare, have not the daily

daily, nay, almoſt hourly proofs of my affectionate concern for you, yet found a way to your heart? ſurely this heart of yours muſt be quite dead to friendſhip, while alone it is ſuſceptible of the paſſion of love. However, I have at leaſt a claim to your confidence, but I find to my great ſorrow that I am cruelly miſtaken. My dear child, ſaid ſhe, what do you think will be the effect of your paſſion for ſir Philip? Root out, I beſeech you, ſo dangerous an inclination, or expect to reap nothing but the ſad conſequences of your obſtinacy. Sir Philip, continued ſhe, it is true is of a good family, and heir to a very large fortune, but then at the ſame time he is under the abſolute direction of his mother, who is a very haughty, impetuous woman. Can you think then that a woman of ſuch a temper as this, will permit her ſon to marry a baſtard without a ſhilling, wholly unknown, and whoſe

parents

parents perhaps may never, or at leaſt not this great while, be able to remedy the diſgrace attending her birth. I took you here out of charity; you are no relation of mine, ſtruck with your youth and beautiful appearance, I reſolved to take you to my houſe, and give you a genteel education. It is true indeed that your parents are people of faſhion, but then thoſe parents are wholly unable to legitimate your birth, there is a mortal antipathy ſubſiſting between the two families, and there is not the leaſt appearance of its being ever made up. Your ſituation then is at beſt precarious. But ſuppoſing that your lover was entirely at his own diſpoſal, and that he had generoſity enough to be willing to marry you without any fortune, and diſgraced as you are by the circumſtances of your birth, do you really believe that he would do it? no my dear Suſan, forbear to encourage ſuch

flattering

flattering expectations, his friends, whoſe intereſts are very conſiderable at court, would never permit him to caſt ſuch a ſtain on his family, you would only be made the ſad object of their reſentment. It muſt be obſerved, that this diſcourſe was often interrupted by the tears which Lucinda could not refrain from ſhedding, as may appear from her being above an hour in ſaying this to me.

THE melancholy with which I ſaw Lucinda oppreſſed, affected me much more than any thing ſhe had ſaid. Overcome at length, I ruſhed into her arms, and with a deep ſigh, alas! madam, ſaid I, what an unfortunate ſituation is mine, what will now become of me, ſhall I fly from theſe parts in order to avoid the diſgrace that will otherwiſe infallibly overtake me? Yes, dear Lucinda, I am in love with ſir Philip, your tender concern for me will not permit

mit me any longer to conceal the truth from you, but be aſſured of this, that I will endeavour to ſuppreſs, and get the better of ſo dangerous a paſſion. Alas! at this time I believed the truth of what I had been ſaying, but was, in reality, the dupe of my own heart. However, as ſoon as I was informed of the particulars of my birth, I immediately broke off my correſpondence with ſir Philip. This was ſorely againſt my will, but it was a ſtep that was abſolutely neceſſary to be taken, neceſſary to eraſe the too lively impreſſions he had made. But all theſe endeavours proved wholly ineffectual, and my heart played me the ſame game that it uſually does to all thoſe, who ſeem willing to obliterate all tender impreſſions. It was in vain that I ſought elſewhere for either comfort or amuſement; the more methods I thought of to forget my admirer,

the

the greater was my anxiety and uneaſineſs on his behalf.

HOWEVER, at length, an event, truly unfortunate to me, ſuſpended for a time the cruel effects of my violent emotions, yet after a time they again got the upper hand, and indeed I may truly ſay that I have not to this day got the better of it entirely. I had been now five years abſent from the farmer's, and flattered myſelf that I ſhould remain here ſome time longer, but I was ſnatched away at a time when I thought of it the leaſt; my tender mother had not had precaution enough to foreſee the accident, which when it did befall her, almoſt entirely overwhelmed her. Her lover the duke having been diſcovered to be concerned in a plot againſt the government, was obliged to go abroad in order to ſecure his perſon. His friends who were well apprized

of

of his clandeſtine marriage, and knew the place where we lay concealed, ſent for us accordingly. One day, it was in the month of December, if I remember right, two meſſengers came to our houſe very early in the morning, and told Lucinda the orders they had received to conduct us up to town. There was no time to be loſt, we were to ſet out immediately, and ſcarce had my mother time to embrace me. Alas, my dear Suſan, ſaid ſhe, bedewing my cheeks with her tears, what will now become of you? oh how deplorable is your fate; perhaps you will never ſee again either your father or mother; who will now compaſſionate your tender years? deprived for ever of your parents protection, you will drag on your life amidſt the cruelty of your enemies. This was the whole of her diſcourſe that I heard at that time. I was ſeized with ſuch a violent tremor, that I ſunk down immediately,

mediately, and did not recover my ſenſes till a conſiderable time after. I did not behold my tender mother till fifteen years after this event, and indeed this was the firſt diſcovery ſhe had made to me of her being ſo.

SCARCE was I recovered from my diſorder, when the meſſengers begged that I would be ſo kind as to permit them to comply with the directions they had received. There was no alternative to be choſen, and therefore I was obliged to obey them. I was juſt getting into a poſt chaiſe, which they had prepared for my accommodation, when lord Dalrymple appeared. My mother's affair had made a conſiderable noiſe, upon which he had collected together a few of his friends, and reſolutely determined to oppoſe my departure. The meſſengers, who were only two in number, knew their own intereſt too well to make any reſiſtance. This behaviour

viour of the nobleman's transported me exceedingly, but alas! in the end it cost us both very dear. The reader may perhaps be curious to know what these terrible consequences were, but as it is not yet time to gratify his curiosity, so he must suspend it for a while, till I inform him of the place to which he conducted me, which was no other than the house of lady Mary T——, where I had first beheld him. That good lady, by her condescenfion and kindness relieved me from the alarms that I still felt on this occasion, and the great regret which the absence of Lucinda gave me, whom I shall hereafter call by the tender appellation of my mother. Lord Dalrymple did not come to see me for several days, which I was very far from being pleased with, for it may easily be imagined that the thanking him for the service he had done me, was one of the pretences

which I had for being desirous of seeing him. The fright I have been hitherto in, said I to myself, has not permitted me to make the necessary acknowledgments, and therefore I cannot help seeing him if I would, in order to acquit myself of this part of my duty. This pretence, however, was but a covering to other views; I flattered myself that he was prodigiously in love with me, and this consideration gratified my vanity considerably. If he loves me in reality, what impediment can there possibly be to his marrying me? Am I to blame in the least for the disgraceful circumstance of my birth? surely such blots as these are only heeded by the vulgar, or at least, only by those who are utterly unacquainted with the power of love, and however good he understanding may be, yet when set in opposition to the heart, its power is very trifling. Thus I reasoned with myself

ſelf, and determined accordingly to behave with great prudence. I well knew that in caſes of this kind, an indifference artfully managed, was equal to the advantages both of fortune and birth. It was neceſſary then that this indifference ſhould not be of the forbidding kind, but diſcovering a tenderneſs veiled over with the moſt immaculate modeſty. Do you not think that I was a pretty forward girl conſidering my age, for I was then only fourteen? but love is of no age itſelf, and is adapted to all times of life, and experience often ſhews that novices frequently know more of the matter, than their reputed wiſe maſters.

LADY Mary, at length, introduced my lord to me, and then left us together. What obligations, ſaid I to him, am I under to your lordſhip? what would have become of me had it not been for your aſſiſtance? after ſo ſignal a ſervice, all

words are too weak to expreſs the greatneſs of my gratitude. You lay too much ſtreſs, replied he, on an aſſiſtance, which any one elſe in the ſame ſituation would undoubtedly have given you, and indeed there are ſeveral who would have aſſiſted you more readily, if they had been apprized of the accident; this is the true reaſon, why, notwithſtanding the pleaſure reſulting from my conſciouſneſs of having done ſomewhat to pleaſe you, I cannot help complaining that it is to gratitude alone, that I am indebted for your favourable opinion of me. This is puſhing your delicacy a good deal too far, ſaid I with ſome ſpirit, for I ſuppoſe you well know that gratitude ought not only to be proportioned to the favour conferred, but likewiſe to the perſon who confers it; that the ſame piece of ſervice does it always meet with, nor indeed does not always deſerve the ſame reward, and that it is

great

great only in proportion to the deſerts of the perſon who has performed it. Alas! madam, ſaid he, I find I am not then to depend on you, and this was ſeemingly ſaid with ſo mournful an accent, that it forced out my tears, you have made me ſuffer ſo much during the three laſt months of my life, that I can never hope you will be favourable in the leaſt, and indeed I perceive that were I to endeavour to forget you, it would be labour in vain. You have made too ſtrong an impreſſion in my heart to be ever able to efface it. Then perceiving my tears, he threw himſelf at my feet, and told me that he conſidered himſelf as the happieſt man in the world, ſince he found that I was not altogether inſenſible.

Alas! my lord, ſaid I, very indiſcreetly, indeed your ſituation afflicts me. I ſaid no more at that

time, but my tears which flowed in prodigious abundance, were equal to numberleſs tender expreſſions, and a lover may well know by ſuch aſſured tokens, the power he is poſſeſſed of. I was ſo troubled and diſordered that I ſuffered him to continue kneeling without intending it in the leaſt, nor would he have ſtaid there ſo long, but that my own agitation did not permit me to conſider his humble poſture.

At length, reſuming myſelf a little, I raiſed him up, and determined to unfold to him the ſecret of my birth, and the ſituation of my own heart in his favour. But how could I bring myſelf to diſcover that ſecret which I had before reſolved to conceal with the utmoſt care and affiduity? In what manner will my lover receive this piece of intelligence? This was my great embarraſsment, and he ſoon perceived it

For

For heaven's ſake, ſaid he, what is the matter with you, my angel? your condition ſeems much unlike that of a lover. Is it poſſible that my paſſion can be the object of your contempt? Are you willing to plunge me at once into deſpair? Have you not ſufficiently tried, have you not ſufficiently tormented me already? Speak, my angel, and tell me what you yourſelf would have me do. I would—I would, and then I was unable to proceed any farther; What would you? replied he, I would, ſaid I at length, and with a good deal of diffioulty, have you let me alone, and neither torment me or yourſelf with this paſſion any more. You will only loſe your time, or ſhould I, in compliance with your requeſt, liſten to you, you would only in the end make me ten times more miſerable than I am at preſent. No Sir, you can never be my huſband, depend on it. Pray what im-

pediment is there in the way, ſaid he, with an air of the utmoſt impatience, if you are not againſt me, who is there that will preſume to contradict our inclinations? I have been your firſt lover, and will be yours, and only yours, if you will bleſs me with your conſent

HEAR, my lord, ſaid I, what I have got to ſay to you, I muſt now unfold to you all the ſecrets of my ſoul, and it is now no longer a time to uſe any diſſimulation; favour me then with your attention, that is all that I require of you, my dear lord; that expreſſion has ſlipped from me when I was not on my guard, and yet I am not willing by any means to recall it, yes, you are dear to me, nay, dearer than my life, and all the ſufferings you have felt, have been amply repaid you by the uneaſineſs they have given me, which, for aught I know to the contrary, may

may coſt me my life. This, ſurely, is a ſufficient proof of my tenderneſs and regard.

You are wholly unacquainted with the ſtory of my birth. It is by no means legitimate, I know not either the name or ſituation in life of my parents, and although this diſgrace can by no means be imputed to me as a fault, yet as it is my misfortune, it makes me wholly unworthy of you. I do not claim any intereſt in your affections, and yet ſuch a claim would be highly acceptable to me, and I gave myſelf up with infinite ſatisfaction to the indulgence of this fond expectation; but as ſoon as I was informed of the particulars of my birth, I uſed my utmoſt endeavours to root out a paſſion whoſe conſequences might be fatal. But, alas! vain were all my endeavours, and I now begin to find they will never be effectual. I would there-

fore take my leave, and think myſelf happy in the continuance of your eſteem, which is all I expect from you. I flattered myſelf indeed that I ſhould have ſpent my time happily with you, continued I, interrupted by very frequent ſighs, but all thoſe expectations are utterly at an end, be aſſured however of this, that no one elſe ſhall ſupply your place in my eſteem; a country life ſhall conceal my diſgrace, and convince you that had it not been for the fault of my birth, I was not unworthy of you. I got up immediately to go out of the room, and caſting my eyes on him I found him in tears, which he was vainly endeavouring to ſuppreſs, he caught hold of me as I was going, and throwing himſelf at my feet, caught hold of my hands and kiſſed them with great tranſports. I muſt own I felt a great deal of ſatisfaction, inſomuch that I had no thought of removing them

them in the leaſt, and my confuſion ſeemed to authorize, or at leaſt did not forbid theſe trivial liberties. He kept me for ſome time in the ſame ſituation; both our hearts were full, and our eyes were the only features in us that ſeemed to be capable of motion; at length I ſummoned ſufficient courage to aſk him what he wanted, and why he ſtill continued holding me in that manner. Alas, ſaid he, my dear angel, what you have juſt now been ſaying, is ſo far from diſcouraging my paſſion in the leaſt, that it redoubled my ardour; I ſwear ſolemnly I will marry you as ſoon as it is poſſible, namely, as ſoon as I am ſufficiently maſter of myſelf, for I am very well aſſured that neither my mother, nor any of my friends will ever give their conſent to it.

WHAT, replied I, with a ſurprize which is the natural effect of an unexpected piece of generoſity, are you then fully determined to ſacrifice to me the anger of your mother, and the indignation of your friends, and all the bitter conſequences which you have reaſon to expect will reſult from both. Yes, adorable creature depend upon it, replied he, that I will make good my promiſe; and in my turn, ſaid I, I will give up all the expectations which I might otherwiſe have, and will abandon them for you. We then concluded this agreement with numberleſs proteſtations of fidelity to each other, tending to our mutual conviction that we were deſigned to be happy. Thus we ſpent our time for very near a month; but alas, our happineſs was of too perfect a kind to be laſting. The meſſenger when he returned to court made a report of what had happened,

happened, and orders were immediately iſſued out to lord Dalrymple to appear, and I was likewiſe ſummoned to ſee what account I could give of the affair; but my lover received timely notice from a friend who gave him warning of what was going forward againſt us. This accident did not diſconcert him in the leaſt; he came to lady Mary's infinitely more ſollicitous as he pretended, for my ſafety than his own; the unſeaſonable time of his coming, (for it was paſt twelve o'clock at night) his own confuſion, and agitation diſordered me exceedingly for a time.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Continuation of the lady's memoirs; theſe marks are genuine, mind no others.

AFTER having kept a profound ſilence for ſome time, he acquainted me with the particulars of the misfortune that threatened us. There is not a moment's time to be loſt, continued he, my dear Suſan, you muſt either follow me or we muſt be ſeparated for ever. He placed the unhappineſs of my ſituation in ſo ſtrong a point of view, that I could not any longer withſtand the complying with his propoſals, I hope at leaſt, ſaid I weeping very bitterly, that I ſhall never have any occaſion to repent of the ſtep I take, and that you will never require any thing of me that may tend in the leaſt to ſully my innocence; do not

not, dear Suſan, ſaid he, torment yourſelf with ſuch frightful apprehenſions, you may reſt faithfully aſſured of my fidelity and honour, in the mean time let us not trifle on unneceſſary topicks, go and gather together whatever effects of value you have got, and I will be back in an hour, with every thing neceſſary for your departure from hence.

As ſoon as he had ſaid this, he went out immediately, and left me to indulge my own melancholy reflections. Alas, ſaid I to myſelf, what have I done, to what have I given my conſent; can my own modeſty, and the duty I owe myſelf, ever approve of the ſtep I have juſt now been agreeing to; I take it for granted that my lord will not uſe me ill, but what will the world ſay? what will my mother think of ſo indiſcreet a behaviour? but what am I ſaying? am I not expoſing every thing

thing that is valuable merely out of a frolick? I ſhall be wholly in his power, and conſequently liable to be treated as he pleaſes; beſides that what in another might be conſidered as a gaiety of youth, in me would be looked on as an unpardonable fault, in me who am deſpicable by birth, although indeed I am no ways accountable for this diſgrace, and conſequently it ſhould not be imputed unto me, yet one falſe ſtep would compleat my ruin effectually; ſhall I be able to hold out againſt the impetuoſity of his deſire? alas, I am conſcious of my weakneſs, and know but too well that my reſiſtance will be feeble; I will not therefore follow him, but chuſe rather to undergo the conſequences of my ſtay, than to run ſuch a hazard of loſing my virtue and innocence.

THESE

THESE ſeveral reflections put me to exquiſite pain, and indeed I was all this while offering cruel violence to the ſtrong bent of my inclinations; ſometimes I congratulated myſelf on the ſtrength of my reſolutions, and then again relapſed into the blaming my fears, and treating them as the creatures of my own imagination; I applauded myſelf at the ſame time for my diſcretion, which in a manner irritated my love. I was in this critical ſtruggle between tenderneſs and duty, when my lord came in a poſt chaiſe, guarded by eight ſervants, well mounted and armed, who were determined to ſee us in a place of ſecurity before they would quit us; I owned to him very freely that ſince I had ſeen him laſt, I had changed my mind, and did not intend to go with him as before. This threw him immediately into a fit of deſpair? who would

would not in this caſe have believed him ſincere? he did not ſay a ſyllable, his concerns, his ſighs and tears ſeemed to hinder him from being able to pronounce any thing articulately.

LADY Mary came in juſt at this inſtant, and found matters in the ſituation abovementioned; ſhe could not refuſe mingling her concern with ours, ſhe loved me tenderly, and was thoroughly convinced of my lord's ſincerity; ſhe took therefore his part, and threw the blame on me for my childiſh apprehenſions. Alas, my dear Suſan, ſaid my lord, accept the propoſal which I now truly make you of being united to you for ever. Pray tell me, ſaid I, by what means can this be done? provided my honour be ſecure, and my behaviour have the appearance of innocence on its ſide, I ſhall, without any ſcruple, run the hazard of all the reſt.

A

A THOUGHT, ſaid lady Mary, is juſt come into my head, you may eaſily be married before you ſet out from hence, and nobody will know any thing of the matter. My chaplain is a man whom you may depend on for his ſecrecy, I will be anſwerable for him; and Lettice, my chambermaid, and myſelf will be the witneſſes. This Lettice was a girl that lord Dalrymple had recommended, as the ſequel will ſhew, not to ſerve my purpoſe but his own; for there was an intrigue between them which was productive of infinite diſquiet to me. But of this more hereafter.

OH! for heavens ſake conſent ſaid my lover, then kneeling, this is the only effectual method to baniſh all your apprehenſions? oh my adorable Suſan, if you will but favour me, I ſhall then account myſelf deſervedly the happieſt of mortals? riſe

my

my lord, ſaid I to him, with tears in my eyes, yet nevertheleſs with a feeling of ſatisfaction within, for this ſolved the difficulty which lay in my way; riſe my lord, ſaid I, I am willing to do what you are pleaſed to ſay will ſo highly contribute to your ſatisfaction. This was by no means the truth, and this is perhaps the only inſtance I ever gave in my life of my want of ſincerity, but I had been early inſtructed that it was no crime in a girl to diſſemble in love matters, and this I was more ready to believe becauſe it ſuited my inclinations. In order to conceal my ſatisfaction the better, that it might by no means get the ſtart of my modeſty, I added yet further, that I was afraid this gleam of ſunſhine would be ſoon overclouded, and that what was now conſidered as an happy event, would in the end turn out a deplorable cataſtrophe. Alas, continued

ed I, wherefore doth heaven make ſuch diſtinctions in birth, I foreſee very plainly, that while I intend only your happineſs, I ſhall be made the unhappy inſtrument of your future miſery. This part of my ſpeech, as appeared in the ſequel, was truly prophetical, but I little thought it ſo at that time.

As ſoon as I had given my conſent to this fatal marriage, the neceſſary preparations for it were immediately made, which retarded our journey the ſpace of two days; my lord's ſervants who were to eſcort us to our place of ſecurity, were not made acquainted with the cauſe of our delay; we were married the next day but one, about noon, and then ſet out immediately on our intended journey. I never departed from any place with ſo much anxiety in my life.

I HAVE already obſerved that lady Mary and I had a mutual affection for each other. Scarce was the wedding over, when that amiable lady came up and embraced me, ſaying at the ſame time, we are going to part, my dear Suſan, and perhaps too for ever, bear always in your mind the ſincerity of my friendſhip. She then vaniſhed from me as a ſhadow, and left me to vent my ſorrow for her departure, which was in a great meaſure relieved by a plentiful profuſion of tears, I was not able to utter a ſingle ſyllable. Lettice and my lord dragged me, as if againſt my will, to the poſt-chaiſe, where I remained for two hours in a very deep melancholy. We travelled all night with an amazing velocity, and continued our journey for five days with the ſame quickneſs, and without any accident's happening.

INDEED I began to feel comfortably enough, were it not that I now and then betrayed ſome ſymptoms of jealouſy. It may perhaps be wondered at firſt whence this jealouſy could ariſe, but it may be remembered that I have before obſerved that my lord and my woman ſeemed to have an extraordinary good liking for each other. Indeed their whole behaviour for ſome time paſt made me ſuſpicious of what afterwards proved to be the truth, but as I was not then married, I ſuppreſſed my ſuſpicions, and amuſed myſelf with thinking it might be the effect of Lettice's gratitude, who had been bred up in the ſame houſe with my lord's ſiſters, and had received many favours on that account. He had recommended her to my ſervice ſince my mother's departure, only as he ſaid, becauſe ſhe was one I might depend on. All theſe ſeveral particulars

culars confirmed me in my opinion of her gratitude, and induced me to think favourably of her rather than otherwiſe. But we had no ſooner left lady Mary's, than I began to ſee a little farther into the matter, I remarked ſeveral particularities, ſuch as nods, ſigns, and whiſpers, which changed my ideas of her from thoſe of a more innocent ſort, to others which ſhe deſerved better; in ſhort I gueſſed the whole truth. About a week after we ſet out, we ſtopped at a lady's houſe, where we were very handſomly entertained. The lady of the houſe furniſhed me with a very good bedchamber, and as there was but one bed in it, Lettice lay in a room adjoining, partitioned off only by a very thin wainſcot; my huſband, who was a great friend of the lady's ſon, ſat up very late; as to myſelf I was ſo ſadly fatigued with the journey, that I went to bed immediately after ſupper,

per, and diſmiſſed my waiting maid. When I awoke from my firſt ſleep, I was much ſurprized to find that my huſband was not in bed with me. This awakened my jealouſy, I got out of bed, and perceiving ſome light in Lettice's room, and the door on the jar, I entered in on a ſudden, and ſurprized them both together in amorous dalliance.

I THINK I was by much the moſt aſtoniſhed perſon of the three; I became at firſt without ſenſe or motion, and then bitterly regretting the unfaithfulneſs of a huſband who was ſo very dear to me, I returned into my room, and ſpent the reſt of the night in a very comfortleſs ſituation. I felt a violent ſtruggle between jealouſy and love; on the one hand, revenge ſuggeſted to me, that I ought not to follow any longer ſo abandoned a wretch; while on the other, I imagined I beheld my ſuppliant

huſband entreating his pardon. And indeed he was conſiderably humbled in the morning, his apology indeed was but ſlight, but my tenderneſs for him abundantly made up the deficiency. My fondneſs ſuggeſted to me, that his concern was ſo great, that words were too weak inſtruments to expreſs it by. But alas! I was miſtaken, I liſtened, however, to nothing elſe for the preſent, and prepared to follow him whitherſoever he went. He promiſed me very ſolemnly, that as ſoon as we were got to our journey's end, he would diſcharge Lettice immediately, and I was ſo fond a fool as to believe theſe proteſtations.

AFTER having continued our journey for two days, we were got into the remoteſt part of the country, when, towards the duſk of the evening, we were attacked by a party of twenty men. My lord ſoon perceived

ceived what it was they wanted. Our eſcort had very fortunately remained with us all the time. Then ſaid my huſband to them, now ſhew yourſelves men, theſe are only poor poltroons who will never be able to make any head againſt you, provided you defend yourſelves with bravery and reſolution. He immediately upon this leaped on his led horſe, and putting himſelf at the head of his little troop, charged his adverſaries directly.

I REMAINED all this time with Lettice in the poſt-chaiſe. The poſtilion, a ſtout, hale fellow, was willing to give ſome proof of his courage, and very indiſcreetly left his horſes to take care of themſelves, who as ſoon as they heard the report of the firſt piſtol, ſet off immediately, with an amazing career, and ſpilt us among the woods, which in that part of the country are very

thick and long. My virtuous woman, without beſtowing a ſingle thought on her miſtreſs, conſulted only how ſhe might beſt provide for herſelf; ſhe made off and left me to ſhift for myſelf. The chaiſe was broke into a thouſand pieces, ſo that it was utterly impoſſible it ſhould be of any ſervice to me in my eſcape; I had already received, by my firſt fall out of it, a contuſion in my hand, inſomuch that it was with great difficulty, that I crawled to the thickeſt part of the wood, and there ſpent the night. I perſuaded myſelf that my huſband would come to my relief as ſoon as he had got the better, but alas! this ſurmize was wholly imaginary, I waited all the next day, and yet heard nothing from him. Tired and ſpent as I was, I endeavoured to relieve myſelf from my preſent dreadful ſituation; I took courage therefore, and walked for about the ſpace of three hours,

and

and at the end of that time, I perceived a little cottage on the brow of a hill, I directed my ſteps accordingly thither, and found the poor cottager, who perceived me at a diſtance, coming to meet me. Good God, madam, ſaid he, by what unfortunate accident do you find yourſelf in this place? I made no direct reply to this queſtion of the countryman's, but deſired that he would let me have ſomething to eat, ſince it was near forty-eight hours ſince I had taſted a morſel. As he plainly perceived that I was almoſt fainting through weakneſs, he took me into his cottage, and gave me ſome refreſhment, of which I ſtood exceedingly in need. As ſoon as I had recovered myſelf a little, I told him the ſeveral particulars of my ſtory. The good man could not forbear ſhedding tears at the account. As ſoon as I had related the whole, he told me he would go and make ſome

enquiries, and endeavour to bring me news of my huſband, and to convince you, continued he, how deſirous I am to ſerve you, I will ſet out this minute, there are proviſions enough within to laſt you for ſome time; reſt yourſelf then for a while. He went out immediately, and left me alone, the ſole guardian of his cottage.

Now alas! what words can paint the ſituation of my mind, when left to myſelf, I had indeed now and then a gleam of conſolation, founded in the hope of my huſband's return. Suppoſing he is not killed, ſaid I to myſelf, he will ſurely uſe his utmoſt endeavours to diſcover where I am, but on the other hand he may either have loſt his life in the perilous attempt he engaged in, or elſe have altered his mind, and forſaken me entirely; his affair with Lettice is too melancholy a proof of the

the poſſibility of this laſt ſuppoſition, and amounting to conviction that he was never really in love with me; alas! I am in imminent danger of being forſaken. Then I repreſented to myſelf, the ſeveral tricks and artifices which Lettice would make uſe of in order to ſupplant me, and to revenge herſelf for the menaces which I had thrown out againſt her. I remained three days and three nights in this diſmal perplexity, and was almoſt worn out with grief, and nigh reduced to deſpair, when the cottager returned. His ſorrowful countenance betokened, as I imagined, the doleful tidings he had to impart. He told me, in ſhort, that my huſband, after putting to flight the people who had attacked him, had continued his journey, and not doubting in the leaſt but that I had been killed, he had made no enquiries about me; moreover, that he had heard in a little village, that

he was going directly to the ſea coaſt in order to endeavour to get a paſſage to Holland. Inſtead of thanking the cottager for the trouble he had been at, or endeavouring to poſſeſs myſelf in the leaſt, in the midſt of my exceſſive grief I could not help crying out, O fatal marriage! O cruel torment! with what deplorable conſequences haſt thou been attended! This declaration was attended with ſo violent an emotion, that the cottager prudently foreſaw the fatal conſequences that would enſue, and accordingly locked me into his hut, and after a long ſpeech beginning with patience, which I ſhould here inſert, were I not afraid of treſpaſſing on that of the reader, he concluded with the following account of himſelf:

My name is H——, of a family ſufficiently known in England, and therefore I need not enlarge either

on

on its antiquity or nobility. I had only one brother, but we never agreed in our lives, he had his reaſons for deſpiſing me, and I had mine for hating him; he was my younger by twelve years, and yet affected to treat me as a child, and to be a reſtraint upon my actions. Beſides that, he was a favourite at home, and that was a ſufficient reaſon for hating him very heartily. Nor was he without his reaſons for his contempt; namely, that every one ſpoke as well of me, as they did ill of him. He had had no education, through the miſtaken fondneſs of his parents; was haughty, arrogant and preſumptuous; whereas I was generally reputed mild, affable, polite and accompliſhed in all the ſeveral branches of genteel education. I never liked flattery, much leſs when applied to myſelf, what I have ſaid, therefore, madam, is only to give you an idea of the contraſt that there

was between us. I was eighteen years of age, when I had the misfortune to loſe my father, and as my mother and I were not at all on good terms, I went and lived with an uncle of mine for ſome time. It is true, indeed, that my principles were not in favour of the powers then in being, I accordingly entered into a plot againſt the government, but this ſtep was merely the effect of prejudice, and a fond conceit that I was in reality conſulting the good of the community. Some time before this, I fell violently in love with a lady of very diſtinguiſhed worth, who was at that time a great favourite of the queen's, and one of her ladies of the bedchamber, but a mortal antipathy that ſubſiſted between our two families, prevented a poſſibility of our being publickly married. Having got her conſent, we made a ſtolen match of it; but in proceſs of time, I was obliged to fly, and

what

what became of my wife, I am entirely ignorant.

Good God! ſaid I, it is highly probable, from putting the ſeveral circumſtances together, that the perſon you have been ſpeaking of, is no other than the adorable Lucinda. But pray, ſir, ſaid I, what was the lady's name? Suſanna N——. Has ſhe any children? I believe ſhe has one, but whether it was a ſon or daughter I know not. All that I know for certain is that the child was brought up at a farm houſe a few miles from town. Alas! ſaid I to myſelf, I am that unfortunate child, but I was unwilling as yet to make the diſcovery, becauſe I was wholly uncertain whether I ſhould be able to bear it. Excuſe me, ſir, ſaid I, if I preſume to enquire about this lady a little more particularly, as I imagine ſhe was one with whom I was intimate. How old do you take the

child

child to be? About ſixteen years of age. It is too true, replied I, and fainted away immediately. I am that child, ſaid I, when recovered ſufficiently, and you are my father.

THE reaſon that ſhould have weighed moſt with me for being pleaſed at meeting my father, now preſented itſelf to my thoughts as a thing that would infallibly ſet him againſt me, namely, my marriage. By his natural affability, he ſoon forgave me my imprudent ſtep, and as his friends had at laſt procured him a pardon, he now ſet out for London, leaving the cottage, where he had diſguiſed himſelf for ſome time paſt, in order to prevent his being known and diſcovered, and carried me with him. But on our arrival, we ſoon heard that lord Dalrymple had been killed but the week before, in a duel about a common proſtitute. My chagrin at this event was very ſoon over. My

poor

poor father did not long live to enjoy the benefit of his pardon, and left me in the ſituation in which I am at preſent.

CHAP. IX.

A love quarrel which ends as moſt others do, in a reconciliation.

LADY Suſan's account being ended, the reader may not perhaps be diſpleaſed to return to an account of myſelf, and the ſtory which though it has ſuffered an interruption, is to be brought to an end. Let it be remembered then, that I was in that period of my ſtory, where lady Suſan had been telling me of the villainous report which lady Richbell had ſpread about me, and left me meditating a plot to avenge myſelf on her for her behaviour. The ſequel then will be an information of what ſteps I took

took in order to its accompliſhment.

LADY Richbell was not at home when I called upon her, but the ſervants informed me that ſhe would ſup there moſt certainly. I determined to wait for her. As ſoon as I heard her coach come into the yard, I ſettled my features into a moſt melancholy gloom, and waited her coming with a good deal of reſolution, reclining myſelf almoſt at full length on a couch in the room. Very happily for me there was nobody with her. As ſoon as ſhe perceived me; Good God, ſaid ſhe, what are you doing here alone? I am curſing the day of my birth, replied I, in a very melancholy tone of voice. What a dreadful execration! ſaid ſhe; pray for what unaccountable reaſon do you quarrel in this manner with your ſtars? What reaſon! continued I, can you

be

be at a loſs for the reaſon? can you bear to inſult me on account of the torments which you yourſelf inflict? you too, who are the only author of my deſpair. Was I the perſon whom you choſe to ſingle out as the object of your cruelty? I who joined to my ſincerity, the moſt ardent paſſion for you that ever man felt. What a ſcandalous return have you made to ſentiments of ſo pure and exalted a nature; you have given out in public, that your only deſign in engaging my affections, was to ſhew your contempt of me in a more conſpicuous light; my honour is now irretrievably loſt: Alas! madam, did I ever deſerve ſo cruel a treatment, and think you that it is poſſible I ſhould ever forgive you.

Lady Richbell would fain have juſtified her conduct. Do not, madam, ſaid I to her, attempt impoſſibilities, the time is already paſt in which

which I placed my confidence in you, nay, you do not deſerve that I ſhould entertain the leaſt ſcruple in your favour. The illuſion is now paſt, my heart and underſtanding which have been impoſed on by you for ſome time, are now entirely beyond the reach of all female arts, and can no longer be deceived. Your behaviour has been public, the revenge I propoſe taking, muſt be likewiſe of the ſame nature, in order to its being the more effectual in its conſequences, and I ſhould not now have come to you, had I not been ſenſible that there was no longer any need of my being on my guard againſt you.

Just as I had ſaid this, I made a motion as if I was going to take my leave, but lady Richbell prevented me. Notwithſtanding the appearance of concern which I put on, ſhe perceived that my contempt of her

her was the main motive that induced me to think of revenge, and when ſhe thought of her own behaviour, ſhe imagined reaſonably enough, that ſhe had every thing to fear from my reſentment.

I PRETENDED as before that I was going, and as ſhe thought me in earneſt, ſhe had immediate recourſe to tears, which, although they were evidently of the crocodile kind, yet were evident proofs that ſhe intended to do ſomething by way of atonement. This was the very point to which I wanted to bring her. Tranſported then at ſo fortunate a beginning, and poſſeſſing myſelf entirely, I began from that inſtant to take all the proper ſteps to the furtherance of my deſign, I affected an air of fierceneſs, and in a pretty ſevere tone, let me alone, madam, ſaid I, I deſire neither to ſee nor hear of you any more; my honour forbids me to come

come to any explanation; farewell, cruel fair, you ſhall ſoon be acquainted with the meaſure of my former tenderneſs, by the greatneſs of my future revenge. I acted this part to the life. Lady Richbell perſuaded that her utmoſt efforts would be ineffectual, and yet unable to conſent calmly to give up her cauſe, decided prudently at laſt in favour of a method which cuſtom had rendered familiar to her—ſhe fainted away.

This, however, had not the deſired effect; nay, on the contrary, if at all, it ſtrengthened my reſolutions. I pretended, however, to be ſomewhat moved with compaſſion, but as ſoon as ever ſhe was recovered from her pretended fit, I in my turn pretended that I would leave her in that ſituation. But ſhe ſtopped me with ſome vehemency, no, ſaid ſhe, very warmly, you ſhall not go yet, I am guilty of the wrongs

with which you have charged me. I know myſelf thoroughly; a concern for having injured you, would carry me to extremities, and I ſhould die unhappily, becauſe your revenge would be incompleat. If my remorſe and the great deſire I have of atoning for my crime, can affect you in the leaſt, do you yourſelf appoint what puniſhment I ſhall undergo, and be aſſured that it will be always with pleaſure that I ſhall execute your revenge.

THIS offer was too plain to be miſtaken, nor was my anſwer a whit behind it in point of clearneſs. Being heartily glad that ſhe had fallen ſo eaſily into the ſnare I laid for her, I told her that love had its influence over me, even in ſpite of my conſent; that it was in vain that I attempted to conceal my ſentiments; that I ſtill felt myſelf prejudiced in her favour as much as ever; and that it was her

favours

favours alone, that could compenſate for the injuſtice ſhe had done me; that if ſhe was not engaged ſhe ſhould meet me at my pleaſure-houſe, and there ſurrender at diſcretion, and that her behaviour for the future ſhould be ſuch as might convince the world, that ſhe abſolutely diſowned what ſhe had aſſerted before. I added to all this, (offering ſo much violence to myſelf at the ſame time, that I took hold of her hand) that upon theſe conditions I would forgive her the whole, and promiſe to live with her in ſuch a manner, that ſhe ſhould have every day freſh compenſations to make me for the injuries I had ſuffered.

I PERCEIVED very plainly that lady Richbell was embarraſſed (for women are not naturally deſigned to grant thoſe liberties which diſhonour their reputations, however emboldened they may be by continual cuſtom)

tom) but recovering herſelf immediately, ſhe proteſted ſolemnly that ſhe thought herſelf very happy in my having impoſed no other puniſhment on her, than what (had it not been for the misfortune ſhe had of taking up an ill opinion of me) ſhe ſhould have conſidered long ago, as one of the greateſt pleaſures ſhe could partake of; but that whatever inclinations ſhe might have to convince me of the truth of what ſhe had been ſaying, ſhe was obliged to refuſe the gratifying her impatience for the preſent, that ſhe had very important reaſons for this delay; they were probably of that kind, which though they are not expreſſed, yet are very eaſily gueſſed at.

It is doubtleſs amazing, that after having been frequently very groſsly deceived by love, there ſhould ſtill be a poſſibility of being impoſed on again; but what name can I affix to the

the credit that is given to the proteſtations of the falſeſt creature upon earth, when one is perſuaded all the while, that her falſeneſs is equal to the contempt we have for her. So ſtrange a piece of folly is without any name, though the frequency of its being committed, gives it an undoubted right to one.

I THOUGHT lady Richbell in earneſt, and ſeriouſly aſked her, what day ſhe imagined ſhe ſhould be at leiſure; to which ſhe replied, that ſhe was very ſure ſhe ſhould have nothing elſe to do on the morrow, and that if I would come and call her in my coach, ſhe would go along with me to my pleaſure-houſe. Fully ſatisfied with this promiſe, notwithſtanding the natural impatience of my temper, I left her in order to go to an appointment, which I had that evening. Scarcely was I got out of the room, when my ideas

of

of ſecurity vaniſhed all as in a moment, and ſuſpicion and diſtruſt obtruded themſelves in their room. I then began to reflect on the urgency of the ſeveral arguments which ſhe had made uſe of, and the cogency of all which would be utterly deſtroyed on the morrow. Beſides, that ſuch important impediments, as ſhe pretended they were, to her preſent compliance, could never be entirely removed in the ſpace of one night, and the reſult of all this was a perſuaſion that ſhe had a mind to impoſe upon me. This laſt part I harped on, and accordingly gave orders to one of my ſervants to ſtand centinel at her gate, and mind who came laſt out of the houſe. As ſoon as I awoke next morning, I was informed that it was no other than the young nobleman who came with lady Suſan (of whom mention has been already made) who had come laſt out of the houſe, and that not

till near four o'clock in the morning. The deceit could not have been better contrived to ſerve my purpoſe. I accordingly laid down my plan of operations, and drove to her houſe at the appointed hour.

I FOUND her juſt riſing from the fatigue of her toilet, a fatigue which ſhe had been giving herſelf to no manner of purpoſe. I ſhall not enter into a particular detail of the ſeveral artifices ſhe had made uſe of to render herſelf a tolerable figure, for what man is there ſo happy who at ſome period or other of his life, has not been an eye witneſs of ſo diſguſting a ſight? Let the reader repreſent to his imagination every thing that a natural uglineſs can add to the impairing ravages of debauchery, and beſides this, every thing that hatred and contempt can farther add to ſo hideous a compoſition, let the reader, I ſay, repreſent all this

to

to his imagination, and then, and not till then, he will have an adequate idea of the lady who was going to beſtow on me her favours. What a chill came all over me on beholding her! I never ſaw any thing near half ſo diſguſting. I ſhould much ſooner have choſen to undergo the fate of the aſiatic monſters, or to ſpeak more plain, of Italian ſingers, than to make uſe of my powers to ſo diſgraceful a purpoſe, upon ſo frightful and ſhocking an object.

AFTER a great deal of complacency I placed her in the coach, and we ſet off together. A little girl, very pretty, and a new face, to ſpeak in the town phraſe, whom I had engaged to conſent ſo far as to be ſubſervient to my deſigns, was brought me by my ſervant, as ſoon as we were got in. In purſuance of her inſtructions, the girl threw her-

ſelf about my neck; when ſhe came into the room, I gave her fifty kiſſes, which ſhe as amorouſly returned, and we ſpent thus ſome time, beſtowing on each other all thoſe tender expreſſions which our malicious wit at that time could invent. Lady Richbell, thro' amazement, looked at us for ſeveral minutes, without uttering a ſingle ſyllable; but as we were going on with our freedoms, ſhe aſked me what I meant by my impertinence, and what I was going to do with the girl? I told her with the moſt provoking ſweetneſs, that my views were wholly innocent, and that I deſired no other witneſs of my behaviour than herſelf.

Just at this inſtant, four intimate friends of mine, to whom I had imparted my deſign, and whom Lady Richbell had formerly treated much worſe than ſhe had me, came in

ſinging

ſinging a very indecent ſong, and thanked her ladyſhip for a piece of good fortune, which, they ſaid, made them ample amends for all the injuries ſhe had done them.

THINGS being in this ſituation, we beſtowed the moſt delicate pleaſures, and the moſt frightful torments, on theſe two women. The one was treated with as much deference as if ſhe had been a princeſs; while we behaved to the other with all the inſolence imaginable. Having ſatiated our revenge in this manner, we at length gave lady Richbell her liberty, which ſhe would willingly have purchaſed, even at the expence of her life; ſhe would fain have inſpired us with terror at her departure, but it only raiſed our contempt: our method of behaviour was more eaſy and natural, a cargoe of low jeſts, ſome little pieces of advice thrown in without order or

decency, a wheelbarrow by way of coach, and a lanthorn for her flambeau, made up the whole of the farce, and the whole likewiſe of her reward.

CHAP. X.

A duel; the concluſion of which is much unlike our modern rencounters, viz. *Death.*

FATIGUED at length with my ſport, I went home very early. I was awakened by my valet much earlier than I had ordered him; a ſecret preſage of the misfortune I was threatened with, made me aſk him pretty ſharply, why he came in ſo early, contrary to my expreſs orders? to which he replied, my lord C—— had been waiting for me above an hour, in my apartment below, and that he inſiſted on his coming in. As ſoon as I heard his name,

I ſuſpected his buſineſs, and having ſlipped on my night-gown, ordered my valet to ſhew him in. After the firſt compliments were over, I am an admirer of lady Suſan's, ſaid lord C——, I had been courting her above three months, when you made up to her the other day, and whether rightly or no, I know not, but I had never examined her as to the ſituation of her heart. Betrayed and deceived, through the deſire of her being as amiable in reality as in appearance, I came at length to believe her to be juſt what I wiſhed her, and grew diſtractedly fond of her. Since the engaging the heart is generally the effect of eſteem, a man, for the moſt part, places the ſum of his happineſs in the ſucceſs of his paſſion, wherefore, at that time, I ſaw nothing around me either ſo amiable as lady Suſan, or ſo happy as myſelf. I lived only, and indeed only deſired to live, to leng-

then out the pleaſures of my ſituation; the manner in which you addreſſed her the other day, effectually opened my eyes: a good deal of conſideration upon this matter, has at length entirely broke the charm, and I have beheld in lady Suſan, a woman, whoſe dupe I was, and who would ſoon have made me a ſacrifice; upon the moſt exact enquiry into her general character, and method of behaviour, I have diſcovered that ſhe is rather a coquet than a deſignng woman, and rather of an amorous turn than either. In ſhort I have found out that ſhe neither deſerved my aſſiduity, nor my eſteem; my experience, however, has only contibuted to convince my reaſon; I deſpiſe her indeed, but am nevertheleſs as much in love with her as ever, nay I am thoroughly perſuaded that neither contempt nor abſence will be ever of any ſervice to me in getting the better of my attachment;

attachment; and it is by your means that I am thus compleatly unhappy, ſince it was by your converſation with her, that I ſhall ever feel an equal portion of ſhame and concern. I am now come to entreat you, to avenge me of yourſelf, of lady Suſan, and me, by notwithſtanding the reſolution I have taken, either of depriving you of life, or quitting my own if I ſhould fail of ſucceſs.

THE length of my lord's ſpeech had given me ſufficient time to recover from the confuſion which I could not help betraying at the firſt; I told him that I was extremely ſorry that what I had ſaid had been attended with ſuch fatal conſequences, and that could I have poſſibly foreſeen them, he might reſt thoroughly aſſured that I would have ſpared him ſo much uneaſineſs: I told him moreover, that he ought not to interpret any thing that I had ſaid to

lady Suſan in its literal ſenſe, becauſe I had ſome reaſon to be offended with her when firſt I ſpoke to her, and that the times in which men allow their malice to get the better of their reaſon, are at beſt, times of aggravation and injuſtice. Beſides, continued I, ſuppoſing lady Suſan was in reality what I ſeemed willing then to inſinuate, do you not know, ſir, that a coquet may reform any day ſhe pleaſes, and that in the ſpace of eight days, ſhe may acquire as many virtues, at leaſt in the eye and opinion of the world, as ſhe had failings before; I ſee, ſir, by the manner in which you now behold me, that you are thoroughly convinced of the truth of what I have been aſſerting; you ought then to know, that it is very far from being impoſſible, but that your deſerts and aſſiduities may make lady Suſan as ſenſible of your regard as ſhe is amiable in herſelf, and even, tho'

you

you ſhould not be as yet convinced of this, yet for the ſake of your own peace, you ought to force yourſelf to hope it, eſpecially as you love her, and if deprived of this hope you will ſoon be very miſerable.

I HAVE one thing more to lay before you on this occaſion. When a man is in love, his paſſion affords him a proſpect of permanent happineſs on the one hand, or elſe on the other of laſting miſery, he believes that this paſſion will continue for ever. The little inconſtancies he has been guilty of in the courſe of his life, are in vain repreſented as allays to his imagination; his heart is already too deeply engaged to attend to any thing of that ſort. Give me leave to aſſure you, ſir, that you yourſelf are in this ſtate of illuſion at preſent; you are in love with lady Suſan, and are pleaſed to forget, that no paſſion ever yet laſted conti-

nually, nay farther, that this is one of the moſt favourable circumſtances attending it; you would agree to this truth were you aſked your opinion in any caſe but your own, but your reaſon which would awake and exert itſelf in the behalf of any one elſe, is lulled aſleep at preſent, and too dull to be able to make the application at home. I am not ſurprized at this in the leaſt, I have known by long experience that the only reaſon which love ſuffers us to make uſe of, tends only to render our miſtakes the more conſpicuous, and conſequently in the end, our remorſe the bitterer: take my word for it, the violence of your paſſion is a ſufficient misfortune to you already; do not then obey blindly the dictates of this paſſion, continue your uſual aſſiduities to lady Suſan, endeavour to find out whether ſhe is pleaſed with them or not, and try to make her as amiable a woman as you would

would desire: if you have not sufficient resolution to go through this, or if you find after some time that all your endeavours are ineffectual, disentangle yourself from so dangerous a snare, and do not engage in an affair, which to tell you the truth, there is no woman under the sun deserves to be the occasion of.

The endeavouring to convince a man who is challenging you that he is doing a silly action, is a proof of being somewhat sillier. My lord rose from his chair as soon as I had done speaking, and in a very resolute tone of voice, said, I adhere to my former resolution, you must either follow me immediately, or we will decide the affair in this room.

So excessively picqued was I at this imperious menace, that I should have instantly given him the satisfaction he desired, had I not recollected

lected that in purſuance of lady Suſan's promiſe, I was to be made happy that very evening; being therefore uneaſy about the event of our duel, I took upon me ſo far as to deſire my lord to defer the matter till the next day. I have ſome buſineſs, ſaid I to him, of a very important nature, which muſt abſolutely be done, I ſhall be quite diſengaged to morrow, if you will take the trouble of waiting upon me about eleven in the morning, we will ſoon come to a deciſion.

He was ſatisfied with the reaſons I gave for the delay. I wrote a note to lady Suſan as ſoon as he was gone, to intreat her to indulge me in her company for the whole day, and receiving the anſwer I could wiſh, I went to her with all the eagerneſs of a man, who is uncertain whether this will not be the laſt day of his happineſs.

WELL, ſaid I to her on coming into the room, am I not a man of my word, here am I, waſhed as white as ſnow; poor lady Richbell— I know the whole affair, ſaid lady Suſan, an intimate friend of yours came in laſt night where I was and gave us an account of the whole affair: you ſee plainly, ſaid I, that you need only leave theſe ſort of people to me to be dealt with according to their deſerts. Yes, ſaid ſhe, you are an excellent one indeed for a ſcheme of revenge. Alas, ſaid I, if you were willing I ſhould be much more dextrous at a defeat; the victory I have gotten is owing wholly to you, be pleaſed then to partake of it; I feel by the ardency of my deſires that I have nothing to offer you that is more worthy of your acceptance. How, interrupted lady Suſan, would you without any formality— what formality (ſaid I kneeling at her

her feet) is neceſſary to thoſe who are truly in love; you love me, and I adore you, you deſire perhaps—why then will you put in the power of any accident, for ſuch a one is likely to happen, to prevent our mutual happineſs for ever. Is happineſs become ſo trivial a bleſſing, or are opportunities grown ſo exceſſively common, that they may be ſacrificed at pleaſure, for the ſake of dull and empty formalities; a prude, an idiot, or a coquet, in love with a fool, would act I grant you juſt in ſuch a manner; you are convinced, I dare ſay, of the truth of my actions, be pleaſed then to gratify my impatient expectations; yes, ſaid ſhe attempting to remove my hand from a certain place above the knee, you ſpeak very feelingly, but—— a more important concern than that of making any reply, ſtopped her on a ſudden. I found her eyes growing heavy, her throat ſwelling, ſhe ſlid gently

gently to a couch, and there laid herſelf down, and panting for a while—— the reſt of this deſcription we will deſignedly paſs over, let it be ſufficient to ſay, that I was as happy as I could wiſh, and that having at length been ſatiated for the preſent, I retired home.

Lord C— did not fail coming the next morning, according to his appointment. I waited for him with reſolution, determining at the ſame time to make uſe of every argument I could think of to diſſuade him from his purpoſe, but all my endeavours proved wholly ineffectual, he was determined to fight. I ſpared him ſomewhat at firſt, becauſe I ſeemed to have greatly the advantage over him, but the violence of his fury, and a thruſt which I received in my arm, tired my patience quite out; I therefore reſolved to take every advantage, and within a minute after,

beheld

beheld the unfortunate lord C— dead at my feet.

I ordered my houſe to be ſhut up, and went to ſome of my friends to acquaint them with the particulars of the affair: in purſuance of their advice, I thought proper to go to France, and there ſtay a while till the ſtorm ſhould be blown over, as I did not doubt in the leaſt but that a ſtrict ſearch would be made after me. I packed up therefore without delay the moſt valuable effects, and ſet out attended by one ſervant. After a ſhort paſſage by ſea, I determined to go to Lyons, as a place that had been recommended to me, both for eaſe and ſecurity. Juſt before my departure I took an opportunity to write a ſhort note to lady Suſan, the contents of which were as follows:

" I HAVE juſt killed lord C— in a
" duel, and am adviſed by my
" friends to ſet out for Lyons im-
" mediately, where the remorſe
" that I feel will be my only conſo-
" lation; farewell, never forget a
" man whoſe conſtancy will ever juſ-
" tify the influence you have been
" pleaſed to allow him over you.
" the concern I feel at leaving you
" does not ſo much ariſe from the
" mere action itſelf, as from my not
" having had time to give you ſuffi-
" cient proofs of my ſincerity ".

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

In which if the reader is not amuſed, yet the hiſtory goes forward.

LYONS is ſo well known, and has been the ſubject of ſo many pens, both ſerious and otherwiſe, that it would be wholly uſeleſs to enter into a minute deſcription of its ſituation, its advantages or defects, I ſhall therefore confine myſelf to the giving the particular characteriſtick of the manners and tempers of its inhabitants. Many people indeed have been before hand with me in making theſe reflections, but I verily believe that nothing of this kind was ever yet publiſhed.

THE people of Lyons are naturally ſenſible, but their underſtandings are chiefly of that kind, which inſtead

inſtead of making any addition to their merit, infallibly deſtroy it in others, unleſs they contrive in ſome manner or other to hide their reigning paſſion. Jealouſy, backbiting, and calumny, are the moſt uſual effects of it, and indeed were a critical examination made, might be diſcovered to be the bitter ſource whence flow theſe waters of corruption. The ancient and eſtabliſhed prejudices, which are ſo deeply rooted againſt the character of a trader, are fully juſtified and confirmed when applied to the Lyoneſe; ſelf-intereſt employs, governs, nay domineers over them in ſuch a manner, that both at that age which is neareſt, and that which is moſt remote from youth and pleaſure; they are entire ſtrangers to the ſatisfaction of retiring in peace, and enjoying their honeſt gains, nor can they ever ſay to themſelves, hitherto ſhalt thou go and no farther.

WILL the world in general believe me when I ſolemnly declare I have the honour of being acquainted with ſeveral people of diſtinction and faſhion, who themſelves are very haughty and imperious, and yet in a circle of Lyoneſe merchants and traders, they would be ſo far outdone by them, that they would appear the modeſteſt men in the world; nay I will venture one ſtep farther, if what I have juſt now aſſerted did not ſeem to exceed all grounds of probability, I ſhould ſay that pride, the inſeparable companion of the trueſt meanneſs, has ſo deſpotick a ſway over the Lyoneſe in general, that it is no uncommon ſight among them to ſee men without any fortune, merit, or credit, men who muſt either be aſhamed of their relations and themſelves, or at leaſt muſt never dare to think about either, I ſay it is no uncommon thing

to

to ſee thoſe very men expoſing themſelves continually to the kicks of a man of quality, which they eſcape at laſt, only through the exceeding low light in which they are held; eſpecially by thoſe who are born to think and act in a particular ſphere of life.

I know ſome accounts have been given of the Lyoneſe which ſay, that the men have neither ſenſe nor gallantry, to which I beg leave to add, that the women would willingly be other, or indeed any thing that you would have them be.

Thus have I given a ſketch of the Lyoneſe in their true colours; as there are, however, ſeveral people in that city of both ſexes, whom I ought not to aſperſe on account of friendſhip and gratitude, before I have done, I ſhall endeavour to excuſe

cuſe myſelf for the portrait I have drawn of their fellow citizens, by proteſting that I am wholly unacquainted what methods to make uſe of in order to place in a proper point of view, their virtues and their deſerts, and the ſentiments with which they inſpired me.

When I firſt went to Lyons I thought myſelf verily in love with lady Suſan, but I had not been long there when the eyes of madam Claircy (the name of a Lyoneſe beauty) would have undeceived me the very firſt time I ſaw them, if I had attended with exactneſs the impreſſion they had made on me: I was not, however, ſo wholly inattentive but that I plainly perceived, that in the inactive ſituation I was at preſent, there was a great poſſibility of their inſpiring me with love; nay, I perceived by the ſatisfaction which ſhe took in liſtening to me, that her progreſs

greſs in that paſſion would keep pace with mine, but I was ſomewhat diſcouraged by the overſtrained civility of the mother, and by the aſſiduity which I did not in the leaſt doubt ſhe would employ in preventing her daughter from becoming the object of my concern.

THE mother was in general a good kind of woman, but when you came to particulars, one was obliged to confeſs that ſhe was but a ſimpleton; flattery, affability, and gaiety, made up in the opinions of her weak headed acquaintance the ſum of her virtues, whereas in the eyes of people of ſenſe, they appeared quite the reverſe. She was affable indeed, and frequently condeſcending, but then it was with meanneſs, oftener with a mixture of impertinance, and always at the expence of true good breeding. Her praiſes were conſtantly ſo many dull repetitions,

ſo

ſo long, and ſo extravagant, that they paſſed by unnoticed or unregarded, by the very enemies of the people whoſe merits ſhe was ſo abſurdly trumpeting forth. Her gaiety conſiſted in a continual laugh, but it was of that kind which we call a horſe laugh, and which has not that effect on any one beſides, but which diſturb and perplex every one in their ſenſes. Theſe kinds of laughter reſemble rather the freaks of drunkenneſs, of folly, and of madneſs, but in my opinion can be equalled by nothing inſupportable in the ſame meaſure and degree.

She had one of thoſe kind of faces which one does not chuſe to dwell on, when one chuſes not to ſay any thing trifling or inſignificant. Her daughter was a young lady whom nature had furniſhed out with every accompliſhment except the deſire of pleaſing. Her extreme indolence

lence took off greatly from her beauty, and yet it was of ſo regular a ſort, ſhe was ſo exceeding well made, and her voice was of ſo enchanting a kind, that one could not help complaining that ſhe was only handſome, without any thing farther. Since I have already obſerved that madam Claircy, neither felt, nor affected to feel, any deſire of pleaſing, it would be uſeleſs to add, that ſhe was wholly a ſtranger to the pleaſures, taſtes, and even to the failings of the world.

WHO is there but knows, that every part of the female education is calculated to inſpire them with a taſte and longing after a reputation for merit, wit, and beauty; and notwithſtanding a girl's having been but little converſant in the world, yet ſhe cannot be expected to be believed, when ſhe profeſſes herſelf indifferent to every deſire of this kind.

Diſguſted a good deal by the fawning flattery of the mother, and the want of education, which I would fain have ſupplied in the daughter, I turned aſide from the purſuit, but I found every where as much difficulty to perſuade, as there was remorſe to think that they could not ſuffer themſelves to be got the better of. Sincerity is an abſolute requiſite among theſe country-dames. Beſides they inſiſt on formality, conſtancy, and a ſtrict regard to appearances. A courtier, eſpecially a foreigner, is conſidered by them as a deity, but then it is as a deity armed with thunder and impertinence. Quite tired out at length with the tediouſneſs of the Lyoneſe, and perſuaded that I ſhould die merely for want of doing ſomething, if I continued there any longer, I complied with the invitation of an acquaintance which I had made ſince my reſidence in theſe parts, and removed to a houſe of

his

his about twelve miles from the city. I left Lyons with all the ſatisfaction in the world, being thoroughly determined that I would never ſet my foot in it again as long as I lived. I found at my friend's houſe, a lady of whom I had heard much, ſince my abode in France, but to whom I was not known in the leaſt. She was called the marchioneſs of T——. After ſome time I diſcovered that ſhe had taken up an inconceivable prejudice againſt me, nay, farther, that ſhe held me in the utmoſt contempt. There is no ſentiment which the women take ſo much pains to conceal as their contempt, love being always excepted. I could not behold with indifference this treatment of the marchioneſs's, which my natural good opinion of myſelf told me I by no means deſerved. She did not want either underſtanding or beauty, was gay, decent, lively, and modeſt; I would fain have turned all

theſe ſeveral qualities in favour of the liking I had taken to her, and I was conſiderably chagrined that the main difficulty aroſe from the opinion ſhe had formed that I was unworthy of her.

COUNT F——, the perſon at whoſe houſe I was, was very much her friend, and as he was mine likewiſe, I thought it would by no mens be imprudent in me to acquaint him with the ſtate of the caſe. I am in love with the marchioneſs, ſaid I to him one day, the great difficulty I meet with in perſuading her of the truth of it, or indeed in pleaſing her at all, gives me a great deal of uneaſineſs, in which I find that my vanity is picqued, which makes up a conſiderable part of my anxiety, I cannot ſay, however, that I feel an ardent paſſion for her. My ſentiments, if deſcribed with accuracy and nicety, would amount to no more

more than a tenderneſs, provided I met with a return, and even upon that ſuppoſition might not laſt for any conſiderable time, but the ſituation in which I find myſelf with her, her incredulity, and the little regard ſhe ſeems to have, nay the jeſts ſhe is continually venting againſt me, make this tender feeling have all the anxiety and uneaſineſs of a tender paſſion, and give me a trouble which I would fain get rid of, and whoſe conſequences I ſhould very much wiſh to prevent, either by hope, if I can bear the uſe of it without going too far, or by abſence, if there are no reaſonable grounds for this hope. You muſt then inform me truly of the marchioneſs's way of thinking, who are her friends, and on what account ſhe buries herſelf here in the country for ſo conſiderable a length of time, favour me likewiſe with your own

opinion of this matter, and whether you think I am likely to ſucceed.

You are giving me, replied the count, a very ſenſible mark of your friendſhip and eſteem, by unboſoming yourſelf to me in this manner; and becauſe it was with ſome uneaſineſs that I beheld you engaging in this affair, I ſhall make the proper return to confidence, by an equal degree of openneſs and ſincerity in my reply. The marchioneſs is not at all a woman to ſerve your purpoſe; ſhe is one of thoſe kind of women who are entirely ruled by the circumſtances in which ſhe finds herſelf, and whom it is impoſſible to prevail to alter a determination which they have once made, without an infinite deal of trouble, which I know you are incapable of taking. Her huſband has never ſeen her on the footing of a man. The antipathy he had to the great end of matrimony

trimony, even at the time of his marriage, gave the marchioneſs a taſte for retirement and contemplation, and a ſecret diſtaſte to all men in general. Settled at court by a place which was given her merely to make her eaſy, and the eagerneſs of thoſe who fluttered about her to prevail over her if poſſible, confirmed, rather than leſſened, her former diſtaſte. She perceived amidſt their eagerneſs, a ſettled deſign to ſeduce her, and through the veil of their aſſiduity, beheld their impertinence; and either through ſpleen, rigid virtue, or inexperience, ſhe has lived ever ſince in ſo obſtinate an indifference, that I very much doubt whether it is poſſible to remove her out of this ſituation.

WHENEVER I hint in the gentleſt manner imaginable at her method of thinking and acting, her conſtant anſwer is, that ſhe muſt ne-

ceſſarily have done right ſince ſhe has frequently repreſented to her imagination the pleaſures of love, much more ſoft and agreeable than even its moſt ardent devotees can ever ſay they have experienced them in reality. In ſhort, ſhe deſpiſes men in general; and the few ſhe conſiders as ſomewhat of more value, and more worthy of her eſteem, are to be dangerous men, and as ſuch to be avoided. You for inſtance, ſhe thinks to be what ſhe calls a pretty man, but you will never be able to root out of her this unfortunate axiom which ſhe has taken up, namely, that it would be one of the ſillieſt things that a woman could poſſibly do, to have any attachment for you; you may form to yourſelf a notion of the difficulty you would meet with in attempting to gain her over, by the obſtinacy of her reſiſtance in this one particular. Judge then what a work of time it would

be

be to induce her to advance from eſteem to love, and from love to the forgetting all principles of honour.

I thanked the count very heartily for the inſight he had given me into the affair, and told him, I would uſe all poſſible endeavours to turn my attention to objects from whence I might expect a greater probability of ſucceſs. But nothing is ſo uncontroulable as the heart, eſpecially when attempts are made to bring it under the influence of reaſon. My endeavours to comply with my promiſes to the count were ſo very feeble, that they had no manner of effect. I gave myſelf up inſenſibly to the earneſt deſire I felt of triumphing over the marchioneſs's reſolutions, and the difficulties increaſing very viſibly on my hands, any ſtander by would imagine that I was really in love, I became ſo melancholy,

lancholy, ſo penſive, and in ſhort, ſo fooliſh: I had been for the ſpace of two months in a ſituation as ſtrange to me, as it was ridiculous to the by-ſtanders, and I began not to flatter myſelf any longer with an agreeable change. I wrote continually to England to enquire whether it would be adviſable for me to come back, but found that impracticable.

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End of the Firſt Volume.